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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF ASSAM, 1913-1914.

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1915.

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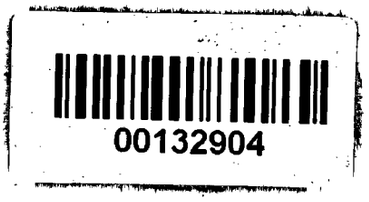

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PRINTED BY H. B. KING, SUPERINTENDENT, ASSAM SECRETARIAT, PRESS.

PART I.

SUMMARY.

PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

PAGE.

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

TOURS OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER DURING 1913-1914.

1. Tours i
2. Changes in the Administration ... ii

RELATIONS WITH TRIBUTARY STATES AND FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

3. Manipur ii
4. Frontier Tribes ii
5. Condition of the people ii

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

6. Realisation of the revenue... ... ii
7. Surveys and Settlements ii
8. Land Records iii
9. Settlement for special cultivation ... iii
10. Wards' estates iii
11. Revenue and rent-paying classes ... iii

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

12. Legislation iii

POLICE—

13. Military Police iii
14. Civil Police iv
15. Criminal Justice iv
16. Jails iv
17. Civil Justice iv
18. Registration v

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS—

19. Municipalities... v
20. Local Boards v

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

21. Agriculture and Horticulture ... vi
22. Co-operative Societies vi

PAGE.

23. Weather and crops vi
24. Forests vi
25. Tea vi
26. Mines vii
27. Factories vii
28. Rail and River-borne trade ... vii
29. Frontier trade vii
30. Public Works vii

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

31. Gross Revenue vii
32. Provincial Finance vii
33. Salt vii
34. Excise vii
35. Stamps vii
36. Income-tax viii
37. Land revenue viii
38. Local rates viii

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS.

39. Vital Statistics viii
40. Immigration and labour inspection ... viii
41. Charitable Dispensaries viii
42. Lunatic Asylum viii
43. Sanitation viii
44. Vaccination viii

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

45. Education ix
46. Literature and the Press ix

CHAPTER VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

47. Archæology ix

CHAPTER IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

48. Stationery ix
49. Printing ix
50. Veterinary ix

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTARTION OF ASSAM

FOR

1913-14.

PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

TOURS OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF ASSAM.

Tours.

1. The Chief Commissioner left Shillong on the 3rd July 1913 for Golaghat, where he halted for two days and afterwards proceeded to Sibsagar, where a halt of three days was made. At Golaghat in the addresses presented by the Local Board and Golaghat Union, emphasis was laid on the prevalence of *kala-azar* in the subdivision and the necessity of an increase in the number of dispensaries. In his reply the Chief Commissioner assured the people that neither trouble nor money would be spared to combat the disease. Addresses were also presented at Sibsagar and Nazira through which the Chief Commissioner passed on his way to Doom Dooma. From Doom Dooma the Chief Commissioner proceeded to Dibrugarh, where a halt was made for three days, before going down the Brahmaputra to Mangaldai and Barpeta. At both of these places addresses were presented, dealing mainly with the improvement of communications and water-supply. The Chief Commissioner then returned to Shillong *vid* Gauhati, arriving on the 3rd August.

In September the Chief Commissioner paid a short visit to Gauhati in order to attend an Education Conference there.

Sir Archdale Earle left Shillong on the 7th November 1913, on a visit to Manipur. A halt was made at Kohima for three days, and Imphal was reached on the 14th. After an interesting stay of ten days in Manipur the Chief Commissioner returned by the same route to Shillong.

For his second cold weather tour the Chief Commissioner left Shillong on the 10th December for the Abor country, proceeding as far up as Yembung with the Political Officer. Various points of local interest were discussed; the spot where Mr. Noël Williamson was murdered was visited, and the question of the erection of a suitable memorial was raised. After spending Christmas in the Abor Country, Sir Archdale Earle returned to Shillong on the last day of December.

At the beginning of February 1914 the Chief Commissioner left for the Garo Hills, arriving at Tura on the 9th where addresses were presented. After a halt of four days at Tura, the Chief Commissioner made a short tour in the district of Goalpara and then returned to Shillong.

All the various points raised in addresses presented to the Chief Commissioner have been dealt with by him, and progress has been made in such schemes as originated from them.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

Changes in the Administration.

2. A Superintendent and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs was appointed in May 1913, and in April 1914 the judicial staff of the province was strengthened further by the temporary appointment of a Subordinate Judge and Assistant Sessions Judge for the Assam Valley districts.

RELATIONS WITH TRIBUTARY STATES AND FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

Manipur.

3. Deficient rain at the time of transplanting and hailstorms later in the year damaged the rice crops of the valley, but the plague of rats ceased and the people in the hills to the south-west have begun already to repay their advances.

The *pothang* system of unpaid State labour was abolished and extra taxes were imposed to meet the expenses thus incurred by the State. There was a considerable agitation against these taxes, but it ceased on the imprisonment of the ring-leaders and great improvements were made to roads and schools out of the proceeds of the special taxes.

The ordinary revenue of the State rose from Rs. 5,08,133 to Rs. 5,10,595 and was increased further to Rs. 5,91,327 by the revenue derived from the *pothang* taxes. A further loan of Rs. 75,000 was raised for the Imphal water-works which were completed during the year. Gross expenditure rose from Rs. 6,22,731 to Rs. 6,33,455.

Frontier tribes.

4. Promenades were made in the Mishmi, Aka and Dafla countries and the Lohit Valley road was extended to Theronliang. Visits were paid by British officers to Dhirang Jong, Towang and Rima in Tibet, and after the conclusion of the Dibong survey operations, survey and exploration work was also done in southern Tibet. The Daflas offered some opposition to the promenade through their country, but, otherwise, relations with the frontier tribes were friendly, and the Abors in particular are reported to be bringing their disputes in increasing numbers for settlement by the Assistant Political Officer at Pasighat.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Condition of the people.

5. Floods in June and July did much damage in the Surma Valley and agricultural loans and gratuitous relief had to be given. In the Assam Valley the year was, on the whole, normal, but winter crops were not good in Goalpara, Kamrup, Darrang and Nowgong. In the hill districts the weather was favourable and good harvests were realised, except in the North Cachar Hills where untimely rain and drought caused a partial failure of crops.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALISATION OF THE REVENUE.

Realisation of the revenue.

6. There was an increase of 87 square miles to the settled area and the land revenue demand rose by Rs. 96,379 to Rs. 71,85,116. Since the close of the year various changes have been introduced in order to facilitate collection of arrear revenue and to improve the status of mauzadars. The demand on account of miscellaneous land revenue rose to Rs. 7,14,869, of which 99·83 per cent. was collected. Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act Rs. 3,11,806 were advanced during the year, the major part being given to cultivators in the Surma Valley, where floods damaged crops and caused some loss of cattle.

SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

Surveys and Settlements.

7. A Second Assistant Director of Surveys was appointed with headquarters at Shillong and a combined land surveying school was opened at Jhalukbari near Gauhati. Work during the year consisted mainly in traverse surveys of tea-garden grants and of extension villages and in the relaying of *thak* and other boundaries. The Shillong Drawing office printed for Assam 64,471 copies of maps.

The resettlement of the Dibrugarh town was carried out during the year in accordance with the orders issued in September 1913, sanctioning the classification of sites and rates of assessment, and the final report was ready in February 1914. The survey and settlement of Guma in the Eastern Duars of Goalpara was taken up, but good progress was not made owing to the illness of the Sub-Deputy Collector in charge. Resettlement operations in the district of Cachar are in progress : most of the survey correction has been completed, and the Settlement Officer has recently submitted his proposals for soil factors to be applied to the various classes of land sanctioned. Arrangements for the experimental survey and record-of-rights in a compact area, consisting of three parganas of the Sylhet district, referred to in paragraph 7 of the last report, were made, and the Settlement Officer designate for the area was deputed from November 1913 to undergo a course of training under the Settlement Officer, Dacca.

Besides the above, the survey and settlement of some small areas in Sylhet, known as the *nankar patwarigiri*, etc., were completed during the year.

LAND RECORDS.

Land Records.

8. Proposals, which have since been sanctioned, were submitted to subdivide a circle in Nowgong into two. Further progress was made in respect of the policy of substituting resident for non-resident mandals. The number of supervisor kanungos' sub-circles was increased by three.

SETTLEMENT FOR SPECIAL CULTIVATION (WASTE LANDS).

Settlement for special cultivation.

9. The area settled for special cultivation increased by 15,450 acres and the revenue therefrom by Rs. 12,029.

WARDS' ESTATES.

Wards' estates.

10. The management of one new estate in Sylhet was undertaken during the year. The debts of three estates were reduced appreciably and negotiations were started for consolidating the debts of one of them by raising a loan from the Countess of Dufferin's Fund. The management of the estates was conducted with marked efficiency, but its cost rose from 16 to 20 per cent. of the current demand.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

Revenue and rent-paying classes.

11. Cultivators in the Surma Valley suffered severely from floods in June and July, and in some districts of the Assam Valley winter crops were not good. There was however a strong demand for rice from other provinces, where scarcity prevailed, and cultivators benefited by the consequent rise in prices.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

LEGISLATION.

Legislation.

12. The Legislative Council undertook no legislation during the year. The formation of several new Municipalities in Sylhet and the needs of Jorhat, as the headquarters of the Sibsagar district, led to the extension of various Acts relating to municipalities and towns.

POLICE.

Military Police.

13. The headquarters of the Lakhimpur battalion were moved to Sadiya and Dibrugarh was chosen as the headquarters of the new battalion, with which the Garo Hills' detachment was amalgamated.

Discipline and smartness suffered from the constant detachment of small parties of men under non-commissioned officers during the operations of the last two years and from the presence of a large number of recruits, but the force has undoubtedly gained in military efficiency by its experience of active service.

Escort work was performed in the Aka country and in the North-East Frontier.

Civil Police. 14. The process of reorganising the district police was continued. Discipline and efficiency still left much to be desired, but some improvement was made by increased attention to drill. The work of Circle Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors was better than in the previous year. Good results were obtained by appointing havildars of military police as Sub-Inspectors of the armed reserve. The ordinary reserve still proved to be inadequate for its duties. Seventy-five criminal charges were brought against the police, but only 15 resulted in conviction. Three cases, however, were pending at the close of the year.

Crime. There was an increase of 2,288 in reported cases of cognizable crime. Of those investigated by the police, 39·7 per cent. were brought to trial and in 81·8 per cent. of these convictions were secured. The operations of gangs of up-country criminals were an object of special attention in the Assam Valley, and in the Surma Valley endeavours were made to prevent riots by issuing formal notices to landlords that they would be held responsible.

The year was marked by an attempt to assassinate Mr. Gordon, Subdivisional Officer of Maulvi Bazar, by means of a picric acid bomb. The bomb exploded prematurely and killed the assassin. His identity had not been established by the close of the year.

Finance. The nett cost of the department rose from Rs. 20,47,895 in 1912 to Rs. 23,24,281 in 1913.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

Plains Districts. 15. Two stipendiary Magistrates were added to the judicial staff. The number of offences reported rose from 39,174 in 1912 to 41,767 in 1913 and the number of cases brought to trial from 17,422 to 19,520, but the percentage of convictions fell from 44·6 to 42·7.

In Sessions Courts 322 persons were convicted, 106 discharged or acquitted and 10 referred for orders of the High Court.

The sentences of subordinate courts were confirmed on appeal in 81·2 per cent. of the cases by High Court, in 62·7 per cent. by the Sessions Courts and in 67·3 per cent. by District Magistrates.

Charges incurred in criminal courts amounted to Rs. 3,76,492 and receipts to Rs. 2,19,990.

Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts. In hill districts and frontier tracts 1,220 persons were convicted in 1,260 cases involving 1,701 persons.

JAILS.

Jails. 16. The daily average population rose from 1,828·23 to 1,917·91 and the death-rate reached the high figure of 40·67 per mille. It would appear that a very large proportion of prisoners in Assam are in bad health on admission to jail and that dysentery, which accounted for 27 per cent. of the deaths, forms the last stage in a case of ankylostome infection, which is so prevalent in the province. Defective ventilation, however, and overcrowding in sub-jails were found to be not uncommon. Proposals are being submitted for the improvement of ventilation and for better sanitary and medical equipment in jails, and the Local Administration has issued orders regulating the transfer of prisoners from sub-jails so as to prevent overcrowding.

Profits exceeded those of 1912, but, owing to large cash drafts and unsold stocks of manufactured goods, cash earnings showed a considerable decrease. The net cost per head of average strength rose from Rs. 80-15-0 to Rs. 86-1-0.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

Plains Districts. 17. The number of original suits instituted rose to 41,139 and of suits for disposal to 51,656. Institutions and disposals increased in the Surma Valley and decreased in the Assam Valley, and in both valleys there was an increase in the average duration of suits.

There were 26,721 applications for executing decrees and 3,744 miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature.

In appellate cases 82·8 per cent. of the decisions were confirmed by the High Court and 71·9 per cent. by other appellate courts. In the other appellate courts the ratio of disposals to the total number of appeals fell from 66·81 per cent. in 1912 to 36·77 per cent. in 1913.

Receipts from Civil Courts amounted to Rs. 6,20,880 and charges to Rs. 2,86,767.

Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts.

In hill districts and frontier tracts 1,622 suits and 42 appeals were decided, the decision of the lower courts being upheld on appeal in 42·8 per cent. of the cases.

REGISTRATION.

Registration.

18. One new office was opened temporarily and registrations rose from 74,239 to 80,076. Receipts amounted to Rs. 1,00,958 and expenditure to Rs. 57,868.

There was an increase of 1,445 in the number of ceremonies registered by Muhammadan Marriage Registrars.

Fifteen new companies were registered and at the close of the year there were in the province 71 registered companies with an aggregate paid up capital of Rs. 12,84,084.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Municipalities.

19. Income and expenditure increased and there was a further satisfactory rise in incidence of taxation per head of population. Three new municipalities were formed in the Sylhet district and entered on their duties with keen interest. The year on the whole was one of preparation. Schemes for extensive improvements to water-supply, conservancy and drainage were submitted from Silchar, Sylhet, Karimganj, Gauhati, Tezpur, Dhubri and Dibrugarh. The detailed estimates of the Silchar water-works, rough projects for water-works at Sylhet, Tezpur and Dhubri, and schemes for the improvement of the conservancy arrangements at Sylhet and Dibrugarh have been approved by the Local Administration since the close of the year.

Local Boards.

20. Two members were added to the Silchar Board, one to represent the tea industry and the other the rural community. The aggregate income of the Boards expanded by nearly 9 lakhs owing to the allotment of further grants for communications, water-supply and education.

Fees were abolished in vernacular schools and there was an immediate increase in the number of pupils attending middle vernacular schools. The pay of teachers in primary schools was also raised. Expenditure on medical relief rose by nearly Rs. 37,000, and one more dispensary was established. The development of the scheme for travelling dispensaries maintained by Government should to some extent relieve Boards of the necessity for adding to the number of their dispensaries, but they need further assistance even to maintain an adequately high standard in their existing dispensaries.

The experiment of allotting small sums to selected villages for sanitary improvement was repeated successfully and will now be succeeded by a tentative organisation of village authorities in selected circles. A scheme for the systematic improvement of the rural water-supply was also initiated as a result of a conference held in June 1913. A sum of Rs. 10,000 was allotted to each Board for expenditure during the year and Boards were further directed to submit programmes of work for five years.

A second special grant of 10 lakhs was also made to Local Boards for improving communications. Out of this grant and the grant made in 1912 allotments aggregating Rs. 10,79,385 were distributed during the year. Expenditure on public works consequently rose from Rs. 12,35,539 in 1912-13 to Rs. 19,44,001. This result reflects credit on the Local Boards and communications have been improved materially. Much, however, remains to be done before they will be adequate to the needs of the province.

Since the close of the year a Local Self-Government Bill has been introduced in the Legislative Council.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

Agriculture and Horticulture.

21. An Agricultural Supervisor and two probationary District Agricultural Officers were at work throughout the year and an Agricultural Chemist and an Entomological Assistant were appointed towards its close. A station for experiments with sugarcane was opened at Khagrabari in Kamrup and arrangements were made to plant out sugarcane on a large scale. At Karimganj a new station was opened and experiments started on the line breeding of rice.

Striking results were obtained at Jorhat from the use of ground limestone with green manure, and the exotic types of sugarcane, mentioned in the report for the previous year, again demonstrated their superiority over local varieties. Demonstrations were made in various districts in the use of manures, in the budding and grafting of fruits and in the superiority of iron roller mills for crushing sugarcane and of improved types of looms for weaving.

A most satisfactory advance was made towards closer connection with co-operative societies. Seeds and iron roller mills were supplied to some societies, two weaving societies were formed and the bye-laws of some credit societies were altered to admit of co-operative purchase and sale.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

Co-operative Societies.

22. There was a further increase in the number of societies from 188 with 10,945 members to 249 with 13,629 members and their aggregate working capital also rose from Rs. 5,56,098 to Rs. 6,84,805. Societies were still mainly of the credit type and issued the major portion of their loans for the repayment of old debts. This is a necessary preliminary to more directly productive forms of activity and the formation during the year of two weaving societies and one dairy society, the alteration of the bye-laws of some societies to admit of co-operative sale and purchase and the purchase by some other societies of iron roller mills for crushing sugarcane show that an advance is being made towards a higher type and that the wider possibilities of co-operation are gaining recognition.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

Weather and Crops.

23. The rainfall of the year was slightly below normal except in the Surma Valley, where it was in marked excess in the first quarter of the year and caused heavy floods in July. The outturn of rice fell short of that of the previous year by 6,07,965 tons, and, as exports were again large, prices ruled high. The outturn of other crops showed but little variation from the figures for 1912-13. Favourable features of the year were the expansion of spring rice and jute cultivation in the Brahmaputra Valley and heavy deposits of silt in the Surma Valley during the floods of July.

FORESTS.

Forests.

24. The area of reserved forests remained unaltered, but unclassed State forests were reduced by 113 square miles. Extensive examinations of the latter class of forests, with the object of reservation, and the inadequacy in numbers and quality of the subordinate staff prevented sylvicultural and road-making operations of any magnitude being undertaken in reserved forests. Climbers however were cut over a considerable area and the introduction of steam traffic on the Kachugaon tramway should facilitate extraction of timber in the Goalpara division. Further experiments were also made to establish and extend *sál* and *simal* plantations, but definite results have not yet been achieved. The gross revenue of the department fell to Rs. 10,92,878 and expenditure rose to Rs. 9,16,657.

MANUFACTURES AND MINES.

Tea.

25. The weather was favourable on the whole in the Assam Valley, but damage was caused in the Surma Valley by hail and floods. The outturn of tea however rose by ·46 per cent. to 199,721,950 lbs. and prices ruled high.

Mines. 26. Five prospecting licenses were issued for gold and allied minerals, tin and wolfram, coal and oil. The output of oil increased, but that of coal decreased and the amount realised as royalty fell from Rs. 64,204 to Rs. 59,434.

FACTORIES.

Factories. 27. At the close of the year there were 15 factories in the province employing 2,901 workers. Twelve of the factories were inspected and no adverse comments were made on them. No breaches of the law were reported.

TRADE.

Rail and River-borne Trade. 28. The volume of the trade of Assam with other provinces increased from 19,463,269 to 21,437,348 maunds, and its value from Rs. 18,86,22,669 to Rs. 21,19,44,888. The proportionate shares of the three trade blocks of the province, *viz.*, Upper Assam, Lower Assam and the Surma Valley, in the aggregate value of trade were 38·22, 18·89 and 42·89 per cent. respectively. About 70 per cent. of the total value of exports by rail and river represents the value of tea, of which about 44·8 per cent. was exported *viâ* Chittagong. Floods in the Surma Valley did much damage to rice and jute crops, and the value of imported grain and pulse rose from Rs. 51·1 to Rs. 115·8 lakhs. Higher prices also accounted for a rise in the value, in spite of a decrease in the quantity of exported tea and rice. But the constant increase under all heads of import and export points to expanding trade and general prosperity in the province.

Frontier Trade. 29. The value of frontier trade registered was Rs. 34,87,814. Trade with Bhutan increased, but imports from other hill tribes decreased, mainly owing to the discontinuance of returns of imported rubber. There was a large increase in the export of opium to the Abor and Mishmi tribes.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Public Works. 30. The total expenditure on Provincial Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department amounted to Rs. 56,40,320. Of this, a sum of Rs. 9,27,847 was spent on Original Works in connection with provincial buildings and Rs. 1,89,188 on repairs. On Original Works Communications the expenditure was Rs. 25,55,653 and on maintenance Rs. 10,76,920.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

Gross Revenue. 31. Gross receipts rose from Rs. 1,69,42,636 to Rs. 1,70,04,311 and gross expenditure from Rs. 1,44,18,765 to Rs. 1,86,79,558.

Provincial Finance. 32. The provincial account opened with a balance of Rs. 78,06,494, which included Imperial assignments for various purposes aggregating Rs. 48,55,000. Receipts amounted to Rs. 1,60,26,700, and expenditure to Rs. 1,82,96,971. Further Imperial assignments, amounting to Rs. 5,13,000, were received during the year and, with the unspent balance of the former assignments, accounted for Rs. 36,93,000 out of the closing balance of Rs. 55,36,223.

Salt. 33. The only warehouse in the province was at Ajmiriganj. Imports decreased by 3,603 maunds, clearances by 16,034 maunds and nett revenue by Rs. 13,420. The sale price of salt remained steady at Rs. 2-4-0 per maund.

Excise. 34. The revenue demand rose from Rs. 47,62,593 in 1912-13 to Rs. 52,51,867, mainly owing to a large increase in license fees realised at auctions in the Assam Valley. The consumption of country spirit, opium and *ganja* rose by 5·8, 2·4 and 6·02 per cent. respectively. The increase is ascribed mainly to greater prosperity and the growth of the immigrant population, but, in the case of opium, it was due partly to the operation of smugglers from Chittagong. Systematic smuggling on a large scale has not occurred hitherto under this Administration and careful watch will have to be kept. Various reforms in the way of raising the price of opium and *ganja* and the minimum age of purchasers and of limiting private possession have been introduced from April 1st, 1914. The hours of closing of excise shops have also been advanced and Local Boards will be used as advisory bodies in connection with rural shops.

Stamps. 35. Receipts under the Stamps and Court-fees Acts rose from Rs. 12,80,991 to Rs. 13,38,222, non-judicial stamps being responsible for 57·5 per cent. of the increase.

Income-tax. 36. Income-tax receipts yielded a normal increase of 6·4 per cent. and amounted to Rs. 4,27,968.

Land Revenue. 37. The ordinary land revenue demand rose from Rs. 74,55,474 to Rs. 75,11,733, and the miscellaneous land revenue demand rose to Rs. 7,14,869. Collections amounted to 96·22 and 99·83 per cent. respectively.

Local Rates. 38. The local rate demand amounted to Rs. 8,73,175, of which some 90·47 per cent. was collected.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Vital Statistics. 39. The birth-rate and death-rate for the year rose, respectively, to 33·06 and 27·66 per mille, but the excess of births over deaths fell to 5·4 per mille. In the Assam Valley the year was healthy on the whole, but floods in July and a subsequent rise in food prices caused unfavourable conditions in the Surma Valley.

IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR INSPECTION.

40. The Secretary of State found himself unable to accept the principles of the Bill to prevent the enticement of labour within the province, which was drafted by the Local Administration, and orders have not yet been received from the Government of India as to the date from which the labour districts provisions of Act VI of 1901, which affect only 1·9 per cent. of the adult labour force of the province, will now be withdrawn from the four upper districts of the Assam Valley.

The number of immigrants was again large and only 32 deaths occurred in transit. The mortality among labourers remained the same as in the previous year, but the birth-rate fell by 2·1 per mille. Coolies brought 8 charges of ill-treatment against their employers, and employers brought 16 cases of assault, unlawful assembly or rioting against coolies; but the relations between employers and labourers and between planters and villagers remained generally good.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

Charitable Dispensaries. 41. The total number of dispensaries at the close of the year was 225, and 1,595,380 patients were treated. Owing to lack of suitable applicants the cadre of Sub-Assistant Surgeons remained below strength and a small beginning only could be made with a scheme for providing 28 travelling dispensaries. Insanitary conditions were reported to prevail in many Local Board dispensaries. Improvement of existing dispensaries should precede any policy of expansion.

Lunatic Asylum. 42. At the close of the year there were 84 criminal and 156 non-criminal lunatics in the Tezpur Asylum. The provision of ample air space and of segregation sheds checked the mortality from tubercular diseases and the death-rate fell from 20·23 to 9·47 per cent. of the daily average strength.

Sanitation. 43. Municipal bodies spent Rs. 3,04,769 on sanitation. Good progress was made with projects for water-supply at Jorhat, Nowgong and Sibsagar, and with improvements at Gauhati. Arrangements for financing piped water-supply projects at Silchar and Sylhet have been sanctioned since the close of the year. The financial aspects of a similar scheme for Tezpur are still under examination.

Local Boards received Rs. 2,30,000 for improving rural water-supply during the year and were directed to submit programmes for systematic improvement during the next five years.

Removal of families from infected sites has proved successful in the treatment of *kala-azar*, and arrangements were made for travelling dispensaries in areas where this disease has been found to be endemic.

VACCINATION.

Vaccination. 44. The number of operations performed in the province rose from 333,363 in 1912-13 to 336,649 in 1913-14, but there was a marked decline in the Sylhet district. Inspection by Civil Surgeons was inadequate in some districts. The rate of mortality from small-pox was only ·40 per mille.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

Education.

45. The most important features of the year's work were the abolition of all fees for vernacular education and the raising of the pay of primary school teachers. This policy met with success at once and the ratio of increase over the previous year in the numbers attending middle vernacular and primary schools rose from 1·56 and 4·60 per cent. in 1912-13 to 87·55 and 9·07 per cent. in 1913-14, while in the cases of middle English schools and of high schools it was 7·87 and 12·18 per cent., as against 14·97 and 15·83, respectively.

In female education also a marked advance was made, the number of girls attending schools rising from 19,085 to 22,747. Four schools were raised to the middle standard and two training classes for female teachers were opened.

The policy, mentioned in the report for the previous year, of assuming direct control of secondary education was carried on vigorously, and six aided high schools at subdivisional headquarters were taken over entirely by the provincial authorities.

Arrangements were also made to improve the staffs of high schools and to provide for their future development.

The number of students at colleges rose from 360 to 442. The affiliation of the colleges was extended and their accommodation, equipment and staffs were strengthened and improved. During the year sanction was received from the Secretary of State to the project for raising the Murarichand College to the status of a first-grade college.

The number of pupils at *tols* fell from 1,249 to 1,175 and there were 2,659 pupils at madrasas. The Government madrasa at Sylhet proved popular and had 110 pupils. A scheme for raising it to the senior standard was sanctioned.

The total expenditure of the department rose from Rs. 19,03,954 to Rs. 23,28,287.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

Literature and the press.

46. The number of publications received and catalogued was 49 against 47 in the preceding year. Five weekly newspapers and 14 monthly periodicals were published during the year.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology.

47. Monuments already declared as protected were maintained by the Public Works Department and special repairs were made to the temple at Hajo and to the Ahom temples in the Sibsagar district. Another Ahom temple at Negriting, two inscribed stones recording the erection of a gateway at Maibong by the Kachari King Megha Narayan Debha in 1576A.D., and some ruined temples at Khaspur, the last independent capital of the Kachari Kings, were declared as protected under Act VII of 1904.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

STATIONERY.

Stationery.

48. Considerable savings were effected again by almost all departments and a revision of departmental allotments has therefore been suggested by the Controller.

PRINTING.

Printing.

49. Late receipt of work for immediate printing caused frequent overtime working and a consequent excess in the amount paid to workmen over the value of their outturn.

VETERINARY.

Veterinary.

50. Rinderpest was less prevalent and there was consequently a large reduction in mortality from disease. This was accompanied by a further increase in the number of cattle treated by the itinerant staff, but much of the debility seen in cattle in plains districts is reported to be due to liver fluke disease for which no cure is known.

The staff remained below sanctioned strength and an attempt to attract candidates by raising the number and value of stipends tenable at the Training College was not successful. It has therefore been decided to make a substantial increase in the pay of Veterinary Assistants.

PART II.

THE REPORT.

PART II.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

	Page.
Physical Features of the Country, Area, Climate, and chief staples.	1—75 of the Report for 1911-1912, Part II.
Historical Summary	
Form of Administration	
Character of Land Tenures, System of Surveys and Settlements.	
Civil Division of British Territory ...	
Details of the last Census, Tribes and Languages.	
Changes in the Administration	1
Frontier Relations and Feudatory States	76—85 of the Report for 1911-1912, Part II.
Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs—	
Manipur	1
Bhutias	3
Akas	3
Daflas	3
Apa Tanangs and Miris	3
Abors	3
Mishmi	3
Hkamptis and Singphos	3
Naga Hills	4
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	4
Lushai Hills, Garo Hills, Hill Tippera...	4
Condition of the people	4

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Realization of the Revenue—	
Permanently-settled estates ...	5
Temporarily-settled estates ...	5
Remittance by special money-orders ...	5
Coercive measures	5
Processes	5
Miscellaneous land revenue ...	5
Loans	5
Other revenue work	6
Partitions	6
Survey and Settlement	6
Land Records	7
Settlement for special cultivation ...	7
Wards' Estates—	
Revenue, rent and cesses	7
Debts	8
Management charges and improvements ...	8
Revenue and rent-paying classes—	
Material condition of the people ...	8

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

	Page.
LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY	92—94 of the Report for 1911-1912, Part II.
Course of legislation	9
POLICE—	
Military Police—	
Strength and distribution	9
Efficiency	9
Casualties	9
Health...	9
Military operations	9
Civil Police—	
Strength	10
Efficiency	10
Conduct	10
Health	10
Reserves	10
Railway Police	10
River Police	11
Training Schools	11
Rural Police	11
Finance	11
Crime	11
Political crime	11
Miscellaneous	11
CRIMINAL JUSTICE—	
Staff	11
Magistrates' Courts	12
Courts of Session...	12
APPELLATE JURISDICTION—	
The High Court	12
Courts of Session	13
District Magistrates' Court	13
Revision	13
Receipts and charges	13
Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts ...	13

	Page.
JAILS—	
General	13
Population	13
Health	13
Discipline	13
Employment and Finance	14
CIVIL JUSTICE—	
Staff	14
Suits	14
Execution proceedings	14
Miscellaneous	14
APPEALS—	
The High Court	14
Courts subordinate to the High Court ...	14
Receipts and charges	14
Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts ...	14
REGISTRATION—	
General	15
Documents	15
Receipts and expenditure	15
Muhammadan Marriage and Divorce Registration Act	15
Indian Companies Act	15
MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION—	
Constitution	15
Taxation	15
Income	15
Expenditure	15
Water-supply	15
Public Works	15
Conservancy	16
Financial position	16
Audit	16
General	16
LOCAL BOARDS—	
Constitution	16

	Page.
Finance	16
Education	16
Medical	16
Rural, sanitation and water-supply ...	16
Public Works	17
Veterinary	17
General	17
MILITARY VOLUNTEERING—	
Military (volunteers)	17

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

	Page.
AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE—	
Staff	19
Scholarships	19
Experiment and research	19
Demonstration	19
Sericulture	19
Live-stock	19
Shows	19
Miscellaneous	20
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES—	
Strength	20
Central banks and unions	20
Agricultural societies	20
Non-agricultural societies	20
Reserve Funds	20
General	20
WEATHER AND CROPS—	
Weather	21
Crops	21
Outturn and prices	21
General	21
FORESTS—	
Area and settlement	21
Working plans	22
Communications and buildings ...	22
Forest offences and protection ...	22
Rubber	22
Sylviculture	22
General	22
Forest villages	22
Finance	22
MANUFACTURES AND MINES—	
Tea...	23
Weather	23
Prices	23
Minerals	23
FACTORIES—	
Report	23
RAIL AND RIVER-BORNE TRADE—	
General	24
Principal imports and exports ...	24
Other imports and exports	25
FRONTIER TRADE—	
Registration	25
Trade	25
Bhutan	25
Towang and Charduar Bhutias ...	25
Akas and Daflas	25
Abors and Mishmis	25
General	25
PUBLIC WORKS—	
Imperial Works	25
Provincial Works	25
Official residences	25
Administration	26
Law and Justice...	26
Circuit-houses	26
Education	26
Jails	26
Police...	26
Medical	26
Other departments	26

	Page.
Communications	26
Miscellaneous	27
Contribution Works	27
Minor Works and Navigation ...	27
Railways and Tramways	27
Assistance rendered to local bodies ...	28
Cost of establishment	28

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

(A)—Gross revenue	29
Expenditure	30
Abstract of Receipts and Expenditure ...	32
(B)—IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE—	
Land Revenue	33
SOURCES OF REVENUE OTHER THAN LAND REVENUE—	
Salt	34
Excise, receipts and charges ...	34
Country spirit	34
Ganja	34
Opium	34
General	34
Stamps	34
Income-Tax	35
PROVINCIAL FINANCE—	
Receipts	35
Expenditure	35
Assignments	35
Local Funds	36
Local Rates	37
Municipal revenues	38

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Vital statistics	39
IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR INSPECTION—	
Legislation	39
Immigration	39
Immigrate population	40
CHARITABLE DISPENSARIES—	
Dispensaries	40
Leper Asylum	41
LUNATIC ASYLUM—	
Population	41
Health	41
Cost of maintenance	41
SANITATION—	
Municipal bodies	41
Urban areas	41
Rural areas	41
Medical	41
Vaccination	42

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

EDUCATION—	
General	43
Collegiate	43
Secondary	43
Primary	43
Institution for training teachers ...	44
Law class	44
Medical school	44
Technical and Industrial schools ...	44
Tols	44
Madrassas	44
Female education	44
European education	44
Muhammadan education	44
Backward classes	45
Children of tea-garden coolies ...	45
Discipline	45
Literature and the press	45
Scientific and literary societies ...	*Nil.*
Arts and Sciences	*Nil*
GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION	121-123 of the Report for 1911-1912, Part II.

CHAPTER VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

	Page.
Archæology	46

CHAPTER IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction ...	128 of the Report for 1911-1912, Part II.
Ecclesiastical	47
Stationery	47
Printing	47
Veterinary Department—	
Diseases	47
Strength	47
Treatment of animals	47
Breeding operations	47
General	47

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF ASSAM

FOR THE YEAR

1913-1914.

PART II.—Report.

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

For—

SECTION 1.—Physical Features of the Country, Area, Climate and Chief Staples.
SECTION 2.—Historical Summary.
SECTION 3.—Form of Administration.
SECTION 4.—Character of Land Tenures, System of Surveys and Settlements.
SECTION 5.—Civil Divisions of British Territory.
SECTION 6.—Details of the last Census, Tribes and Languages.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1911-1912, Part II, pages 1—75.]

SECTION 7.—Changes in the Administration.

Changes in the Administration.

1. During the year the judicial staff of the province was strengthened by the temporary appointment in May 1913 of Mr. Abdul Majid, B.A., L.L.B., Barrister-at-Law, as Superintendent and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs, and by the temporary appointment in April 1914 of Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhib-ud-din Ahmad, Extra Assistant Commissioner, as Subordinate Judge and Assistant Sessions Judge of the Assam Valley Districts.

SECTION 8.—Frontier Relations and Feudatory States.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1911-1912, Part II, pages 76—85.]

SECTION 9.—Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

FEUDATORY STATES.

MANIPUR.

[Tribute :—Rs. 50,000. Population (1911) 3,46,222. Average gross revenue for last five years Rs. 5,18,555. Military Police :—7 officers and 223 men. Products :—rice, vegetables, sugarcane, tobacco, wax, tea and other forest products, ponies, cattle. Manufactures :—Silk and cotton cloth, brass and other metal utensils, mustard oil, a few articles of ivory and jewellery, some leather work and coarse salt. Minerals :—Iron, limestone, copper.]

[Raja :—His Highness Raja Chura Chand Singh, aged 28 years, caste Kshatriya. His Highness has two daughters by his first wife Rani Ngangbom Dhanamanjuri Ibemacha ; two sons, aged 6 and 3 years, by his second wife Rani Chingakhom Syama Sakhi ; one daughter by his third wife Rani Ngangbom Priya Sakhi ; and one son, aged 11 months, by his fifth wife Rani Haobom Lilabati.]

General.

2. The main feature of the year was the abolition of the *pothang*, or system of personal service by raiyats in the up-keep of roads and schools and in the conveyance of the baggage of touring officials. In order to cover the expenses thus assumed by

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

the State extra taxes were imposed. These consisted of (i) an increase of 3 annas per rupee of land revenue in the main valley, (ii) the sale of thatching grass *mahals* and minor fisheries, (iii) the imposition of survey, partition and process fees and an increase in court fees, and (iv) a nominal fee in primary schools. The agitation against the old *pothang* system was transferred to one against these taxes and advantage was taken of the visit of the Chief Commissioner of Assam in November to spread rumours that the special taxes had been abolished. Eventually the leading agitators were arrested and imprisoned, but the collection of the revenue was delayed and arrears were large at the end of the year.

The Darbar also regularised, or converted into money payments, other old obligations of personal service.

Hill tribes.

3. The conduct of the hill tribes and of the tribes in the unadministered tract was satisfactory.

Administration of the land revenue.

4. During the year 3,440 *bighas* of waste land were taken into cultivation and 1,643 *bighas* of settled land were relinquished. The demand of land revenue, including arrears, was Rs. 3,50,238, Rs. 3,23,499 or 92·36 per cent. of the demand were collected, Rs. 1,134 were remitted, Rs. 1,246 were paid as fees to mauzadars and Rs. 24,329 remained outstanding. The demand of the new *pothang* taxes was Rs. 63,811. Of this, Rs. 106 were remitted and Rs. 60,008 were collected.

House-tax in the hills was levied at the usual rate of Rs. 3 per house, except in Kuki villages of less than 20 houses, in which it was raised to Rs. 6 per house in default of amalgamation with a larger village. This was done as much inconvenience in administration and in the collection of taxes had been experienced from the prevalence of these small villages. The tax of annas 10 per house on Kukis and Nagas cultivating land in the valley and in Jiribam was not altered. Owing mainly to the excess tax on small villages, the demand, including arrears of Rs. 10,837, rose from Rs. 72,642 to Rs. 88,276, of which Rs. 63,606 were collected.

Production and trade.

5. The rainfall was normal, but deficient at the time of transplanting. The rice crop suffered from this and also from hailstorms in November and is estimated to have been only 62·5 per cent. of the normal. The scarcity in the hills to the south-west was felt up to October, and 3,209 maunds of rice were distributed by the State in this locality. The plague of rats, however, has ceased, good crops were realised in the cold weather, and the villagers were able to pay off part of their arrears of house-tax, advances and debts.

Owing to the short crops and to the demand from neighbouring districts the price of rice was high and the agricultural portion of the community derived benefit therefrom.

The silk venture, which was taken over by the Darbar in the previous year, was again unfortunate. Seed ordered from Europe arrived too late, worms were destroyed deliberately at the instigation of the *pothang* agitators, and also by carelessness, by rats, by storms, by hail and by disease. The eggs ordered for the coming season hatched out and died on the way and three plantations on unsuitable soil had to be abandoned. The one hopeful incident of the year was that the industry was taken up voluntarily by some hill villages bordering the valley.

The Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation continued their girdling operations in the teak forests of the Kabaw Valley. A special officer was borrowed from the Government of Assam to inspect and report on the forests of the Cachar border, which have been yielding yearly a diminishing revenue. He reported that the more accessible forests have been denuded of valuable timber, but advises that by a system of felling *coupes*, in regular rotation and under proper supervision, these forests should recover and become a source of steady income to the State and of profit to the local hillmen.

The school established for the instruction of women in the use of improved handlooms proved a failure and was closed at the end of the year.

During the year 5,829 cattle and 228 ponies, the major portion of which had been bought in Burma, were exported.

Justice.

6. The number of offences reported fell from 656 to 643 and the number of persons brought to trial from 1,102 to 1,086. Of these, 270 were convicted and 662 were acquitted or discharged. Appeals were preferred in 49 cases and resulted in the sentence of the lower court being confirmed in 13 cases, modified or reversed in 20 cases and quashed in 3 cases, while in 2 cases further enquiry was ordered. Civil courts disposed of 2,780 suits of an aggregate value of Rs. 1,44,029. In 392 appeals disposed of during the year, the decision of the lower court was confirmed in 233 cases and modified or reversed in 130 cases; in 38 cases a compromise was effected, and 11 cases were remanded for retrial.

Finance.

7. The revenue of the State rose from Rs. 5,08,133 to Rs. 5,10,595 and was increased further to Rs. 5,91,327 by the proceeds of the *pothang* taxes. Receipts under the heads "Land Revenue," "Hill Tribes," "Fisheries," "Foreigners Tax," "Ferries," "Excise" and "Miscellaneous" increased, and decreased under the heads "Salt," "Forests," "Tea seed," "Law and Justice" and "Jail." The total expenditure was Rs. 6,33,455, of which Rs. 56,357 came from the *pothang* fund, against Rs. 6,22,731 in the previous year. A further loan was taken for the water-works and the State was indebted to the extent of Rs. 1,75,000 at the close of the year and had a closing balance, including Rs. 24,375 on account of the *pothang* fund, of Rs. 3,21,230.

Miscellaneous.

8. The water-works at Imphal were completed at a cost of Rs. 2,97,079 and resulted in a noticeable improvement in the health of the town-people. A nominal fee was charged in primary schools and, at Imphal, the Lady Earle's Girls' School was opened.

Rinderpest was far less prevalent during the year. The veterinary assistant toured freely and treated 1,707 animals in his dispensary and 154 on tour.

With the proceeds of the *pothang* taxes great improvements were made to the roads and school buildings.

FRONTIER TRIBES.

General.

9. A policy of peaceful penetration was pursued successfully during the year. The survey parties in the Mishmi and Abor countries completed their work without friction and returned in June and August. The Lohit Valley road was carried to Theronliang and communication with the hill tribes was kept up by promenades to Walong in the Mishmi country and through the Aka and Dafla countries. The British officers on these promenades visited Dhirang Jong, Towang and Rima, and were received in a most friendly manner by the Tibetan officials. The south of Tibet was also explored and surveyed by Captain Bailey and Captain Morshead after the close of the Dibong survey operations. The only opposition experienced on these various expeditions was from the Daflas during the promenade through their country.

Bhutias.

10. The usual fair was held at Darranga and Bhutias also visited Udalgiri, Kokilabari, the temples at Kamakhya and other places. Their conduct was good and the usual *posa* of Rs. 5,000, Rs. 2,526-7-0 and Rs. 145-13-6 were given to the Bhutia Gellengs and to the Charduar and Thebengia Bhutias respectively. His Highness the Maharaja of Bhutan visited Dewangiri and many questions of administration were discussed with him and the Political Officer of Sikkhim by the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Division and the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup.

Akas.

11. Only one Hazarikhoa and six Kapaschor chiefs visited Tezpur and received their *posa*.

Daflas.

12. Fewer Daflas visited the plains and the *posa* of Athu Raja was withheld as he raided the house of a Kachari. Some Tagin Abors raided a Dafla village at Hathiputhi, killing 4 and capturing 20 persons. The Daflas retaliated and captured six Abors. These were taken over and kept in jail at Tezpur till the Dafla captives were released. A military police guard was stationed to watch the passes from these hills and the Political Officer will deal further with this matter in due course.

Apa Tanangs and Miris.

13. The conduct of these tribes was good, but the new rubber rules were not popular and fewer Apa Tanangs came to trade. Takam Gam, a hill Miri, who had given much trouble, was captured and imprisoned, but his son Tada Gam evaded arrest.

Abors.

14. Relations with the Abors were good and they are bringing their disputes in increasing numbers to be decided by the Assistant Political Officer at Pasighat. A trading post was established at Rotung and proposals have been made to move it gradually further into the country. The only unpleasant incident of the year was the resistance offered by the Abor village of Membo to a settlement of some men of Yebuk, as ferry men, on the banks of the Dihong. The Political Officer visited Membo and realised a fine of 10 *mithan* for the destruction of the houses of the men of Yebuk.

Mishmis.

15. The Mishmis were friendly and readily supplied labour for the promenade party on its way to Walong. They continued to bring their produce to Sadiya for auction by the Political Officer. A Chulikata Mishmi of Apolin, however, committed a murder in British territory and an attempt to arrest him was not successful.

Hkamptis and Singphos.

16. These tribes behaved well, but towards the end of the year three Kayas were murdered at the Singpho village of Waket. The headmen of this village will be required to stand their trial, the Kaya's shop, from which the villagers obtained their opium, will probably be closed and the permission given to the Waket Tang to capture elephants has been withdrawn.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

Margherita Rangpang, Barduaria, Namsangya, Barmithunia, Nagas.

17. Complaints were received that Rangpang Nagas were stealing rails belonging to the Assam Railway and Trading Company. A warning was given but the thefts continued, and so the people of the villages concerned were forbidden to enter British territory. In a quarrel between Barduaria and Barmithunia Nagas three of the former were killed. This took place outside the Inner Line, but the Mithunia Raja's conduct was not satisfactory so his annual subsidy has been withheld.

Naga Hills.

18. Relations with the Nagas of the unadministered tract were good, and two headmen, who were responsible for an attack by the men of Anangba on the village of Kumishe, in which a British subject was killed, were imprisoned. In this attack 16 persons in all were killed and two girls were carried off and subsequently sacrificed.

Sixteen other head-hunting raids, mainly in the nature of vendettas and resulting in the death of 40 persons, were reported from the transfrontier villages.

Khasi and Jaintia, Lushai, Garo Hills, Hill Tippera.

19. Politically the year was uneventful in the Khasi and Jaintia, Lushai and Garo Hills, and relations with the Raja of Hill Tippera continued to be friendly.

SECTION 10.—Condition of the people.

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1913-14.]

Condition of the people.

20. The plains districts of the Surma Valley suffered severely from floods in June and July and the early and autumn rice crops were poor. Agricultural loans and gratuitous relief were distributed promptly and serious distress, which seemed likely to ensue, especially in the Habiganj subdivision, was thereby averted. In Cachar the winter crops were fairly good, but in parts of Sylhet further damage was caused by hail in December and there were late floods in the Sunamganj subdivision. In the Naga and Lushai Hills the plague of rats ceased and good harvests were realised, but in the North Cachar Hills heavy rain in the early part of the year and a prolonged drought thereafter caused a partial failure of the crops and relief had to be given to the people. In the Assam Valley the weather was favourable on the whole, but untimely rain, followed by drought, did some damage to winter crops in Goalpara, Kamrup, Darrang and Nowgong.

Immigration from Eastern Bengal into the districts of Goalpara and Nowgong and the subdivision of Sunamganj continued, and Sonthals from Jalpaiguri and Nepalese graziers made further settlements in the Eastern Duars of Goalpara. Within the province migration was maintained from the more populous parts of the Surma Valley to Nowgong and Kamrup. The colonisation of the Nambor forest made little progress, and the report of a special officer, who was deputed to enquire and advise on this matter, shows that there is little prospect of developing this portion of the province as long as lands are available in more attractive quarters.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

SECTION 1.—Realization of the revenue.

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1913-14.]

General. 21. An account of the demand and collection of land revenue will be found in Chapter V.—"Revenue and Finance." During the year there was an increase of 87 square miles to the settled area and the revenue demand rose by Rs. 96,379 to Rs. 71,85,116, the incidence of revenue per square mile being Rs. 537·04.

Permanently-settled estates. 22. There was no change in the area and revenue demand of the permanently-settled estates in the Assam Valley. In the Surma Valley five estates were transferred from Mymensingh to Sylhet and five estates were bought by Government for arrears of revenue and transferred to the class of temporarily-settled estates. These transactions resulted in an increase of 1,264 acres in area and of Rs. 121 in revenue from permanently-settled estates. The revenue demand amounted to Rs. 4,61,556, of which Rs. 3,78,756 were collected and Rs. 82,800 remained outstanding. As was explained in the report for 1912-13, the Sylhet district is responsible for the outstanding balance from this class of estates.

Temporarily-settled estates. 23. Temporarily-settled estates comprise 40·89 per cent. of the settled area of the province and contribute 89·83 per cent. of the land revenue demand. The total area of these estates, settled at full rates for ordinary cultivation, increased by 36,958 acres and the revenue demand from them by Rs. 65,022. The current demand for the year rose by Rs. 91,249 to Rs. 67,77,250 and the arrear demand fell by Rs. 25,498 to Rs. 2,05,227. Collections were better than in the previous year and rose from 97 to 99·35 per cent. on the current demand and from 94·64 to 95·43 per cent. on the arrear demand. This improvement was shared by all districts except Cachar and Sylhet. In Cachar a decrease from 99·82 to 98·12 per cent. of the demand was due to the default of two mauzadars, and in Sylhet the fact that the main *kists* fall due towards the end of the revenue year constantly causes an apparent failure in collection. Under special settlements there was an increase of 2,165 acres and of Rs. 7,041 revenue. Progressive assessments in Sylhet and some expansion of cultivation in the Nambor forest in Sibsagar account for the greater part of this increase.

Remittances by special money-orders. 24. Only in Sylhet is revenue remitted by special money-orders. The number of these orders rose from 3,152 to 3,361, and the amount covered by them from Rs. 9,848 to Rs. 11,678.

Coercive measures employed for collection of revenue. 25. The number of estates on the owners of which notices of demand were served fell from 60,842 to 58,582, but the number of attachments of property rose from 33,835 to 37,195. Notices of sale and sales of property however fell from 15,051 and 878 to 12,495 and 769, respectively. The increase in the number of attachments took place mainly in Sibsagar and was due to a failure on the part of the *raiyats* to realise that the practice of issuing preliminary notices of demand of revenue, before attaching property, had been discontinued. Since the close of the year important changes have been made in order to facilitate collection of arrear revenue and to improve the status of mauzadars. The practice of issuing preliminary notices of demand will be discontinued entirely, selected mauzadars will be vested with powers to issue attachment orders on their own motion and to dispose of uncontested mutation and partition cases, and provision will be made to extend, in certain cases, the term for which security is taken from mauzadars and the date of payment of the last instalment of revenue due from them.

Processes. 26. The number of processes issued rose from 187,661 to 187,662, but this figure was only attained by an increase in the number of unpaid processes, and the fees realised fell from Rs. 1,37,259 to Rs. 1,33,478. The cost of the establishment rose by Rs. 462 to Rs. 64,632.

Miscellaneous land revenue. 27. The demand on account of miscellaneous land revenue rose by Rs. 39,557 to Rs. 7,14,869, of which 99·83 per cent. was collected.

Loans. 28. No loans were given under the Land Improvement Act, but under the Agriculturists' Loans Act Rs. 3,11,806 were advanced, of which Rs. 2,73,304 were distributed in Sylhet and Cachar, where floods damaged crops and caused some loss of cattle. Including loans outstanding from previous years, the total amounts to be recovered aggregated Rs. 9,68,560. Of this sum, Rs. 1,86,152 were due to be recovered within the year, Rs. 1,41,450 were actually recovered and Rs. 11,438 were remitted.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Other revenue work.

29. No new work of importance was undertaken during the year, but villagers in submontane tracts and in parts of Kamrup and Nowgong deepened, cleared and diverted streams to irrigate their fields. In Sibsagar eight *bunds* were maintained by the Public Works Department, but breaches occurred in the Disang, Dwarika and Dihing embankments and some damage was caused thereby. The measures for preventing erosion of the river bank in Dibrugarh town proved unavailing, and the bank near the steamer *ghat* was cut so badly that a re-alignment of the Dibru-Sadiya Railway line became necessary. New efforts are being made now to prevent further erosion.

Partitions.

30. Omitting summary partitions under rule 203 of the Assam Land Records Manual, 348 partitions were instituted during the year. Together with cases pending from previous years there were in all 601 cases for disposal, and of these 325 were decided and 276 remained pending. The ratio of disposals to the total number of cases rose from 49·4 to 54·07 per cent., but the number of pending cases still remained very large.

SECTION 2.—Surveys and Settlements.

[*See* Report on Survey and Settlement Operations in Assam for the year ending the 30th September 1914.]

Survey.

31. During the year Captain C. M. Thompson, I.A., was appointed Second Assistant Director of Surveys with headquarters at Shillong. The survey schools at Dibrugarh, Silchar and Gauhati were abolished and a combined land surveying school was opened in temporary quarters at Jhalukbari near Gauhati. Three Assistant Commissioners, one Extra Assistant Commissioner, six Sub-Deputy Collectors and 43 out of 50 students in the mandals' class passed through this school successfully.

32. In the Lakhimpur district traverse surveys of 12 tea-garden grants and of the Digboi oil field were completed. The traverse of extension villages in Kamrup was also undertaken, but without much success, by three mandals trained in the previous year, and the survey of Messrs. Birkmyre's grant for jute cultivation was continued. The demarcation of the Goalpara-Bhutan boundary and the relaying of part of the boundary between Sylhet and Hill Tippera were completed. *Thak* boundaries were demarcated or relaid in Sylhet and extension survey traverses were made in other districts.

33. The Shillong Drawing office printed 64,471 copies of maps for Assam, of which 33,984 were village maps, and preparations were made to prepare and print vernacular maps for use in schools.

Settlement.

34. Effect was given during the year to the orders issued in September 1913 sanctioning the classification of the sites of the Dibrugarh town and the rates of assessment to be applied thereto. The resettlement came into force from the 1st April, and the final report, which was submitted to the Local Administration in February 1914, shows that the operation has resulted in an addition to the revenue of Rs. 11,342.

35. Resettlement operations in Guma Duar in Goalpara, which were postponed by order No. 6518R., dated the 4th December 1913, on account of the illness of the Sub-Deputy Collector in charge, were taken up late in the year. The Deputy Commissioner's proposals for land classification have since been sanctioned. The question of the resettlement of the Bijni and Sidli Duars in Goalpara with the Rani of Bijni and the Raja of Sidli was further considered and orders have been issued since the close of the year. The revision of the present settlement of the Cachar district, which expires on 1st April 1915, was commenced on 1st October 1913. Mr. W. L. Scott was appointed Settlement Officer, with effect from 1st July 1913, and was given three Assistant Settlement Officers from 1st October 1914. For settlement purposes the district has been divided into six groups. The field work in connection with the programme for the season 1913-14, which consisted of map revision and record correction of four of the groups, was completed.

36. The last settlement of the Jaintia parganas expired on 1st April 1914. In 1912-13 Mr. W. L. Scott enquired into the economic condition of the people and the state of records in this area along with the Cachar district. His report, advocating a revision of the settlement, was received in March 1913 and the inception of resettlement operations in the area was sanctioned. But, on the recommendation of the local officers, the Cachar resettlement was given precedence and the work in Jaintia was postponed till the cold weather of 1914.

37. The resettlement of the small *nankar patwarigiri* and other estates, covering an area of 27·97 square miles, was commenced by the district staff in Eastern Bengal and Assam in 1908. The widely scattered nature of the area delayed the operations which were finished during the year under report. The Assistant Settlement Officer's final report exhibits a nett increase of Rs. 5,286 over the old revenue of Rs. 15,215, or 35 per cent., of which 11 per cent. represents increase due to the extension of cultivation. Besides this Rs. 2,210 have been added to the revenue for lands newly taken up and settled along with the *nankar patwarigiri* estates.

38. In connection with the experimental operations in the permanently-settled area of Sylhet all preliminary arrangements, including the deputation of the Settlement Officer designate to Dacca for training, were completed.

39. Extension surveys were carried out by the land records agency in all the plains districts as well as in the plains mauzas of the Garo Hills, the area actually surveyed being 137 square miles.

SECTION 3.—Land Records.

Land Records.

40. There was no change in the sanctioned strength of mandals and patwaris during the year under report. Vigorous steps continued to be taken to secure resident recorders for all the lots and now 89 per cent. of them are in charge of their home lots or have been exempted from residence, against 83 at the end of the preceding year. The sanctioned number of supervisor kanungos was increased by the addition of one in the Jorhat subdivision of Sibsagar and two in the Nowgong district. Proposals were submitted for starting a new circle in Nowgong mainly made up of hill mauzas. These mauzas were under the direct supervision of the Deputy Commissioner, who could not devote enough time to them owing to his multifarious duties, and the immediate creation of the circle became a necessity in order to avoid loss of revenue and land speculation on a large scale by the colonists from the Surma Valley, who are migrating to these mauzas in very large numbers. The new circle has since been sanctioned.

SECTION 4.—Settlement for special cultivation (waste lands).

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1913-14.]

Settlement of Special cultivation.

41. The area settled for special cultivation increased by 15,450 acres to 1,153,921 acres and the revenue therefrom rose to Rs. 7,31,455. This expansion is attributed to the prosperity of the tea industry. Land is being taken up with a view to the future expansion of old estates, as well as to the formation of new gardens, and in the Lakhimpur district a tendency to speculate in this type of settlement has been noted.

SECTION 5.—Government Estates.

Nil.

SECTION 6.—Wards' Estates.

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1913-14.]

General.

42. The management of the Sylhet estates of the Nawab Bahadur of Dacca was undertaken during the year and brought up to 10 the number of estates under the Court of Wards. No estate was released during the year, but the wards of the Hoshenpur estate professed themselves anxious to resume personal management of their property, and, on failing to comply with the conditions imposed, adopted an obstructive attitude towards the Court.

Revenue, rent and cesses.

43. The amount of revenue and cesses payable to Government, including arrears, was Rs. 29,558, and of this sum, Rs. 27,059, which represented 103·6 per cent. of the current demand, were realised. Rent and cesses due to superior landlords were paid in full by all estates except that of the Khan Bahadur and the dues of this estate will be paid when a loan for it has been negotiated. The demand on account of rents and cesses due to the estates, including arrears aggregating Rs. 2,88,393, amounted to Rs. 5,90,601. Of this sum, Rs. 3,00,787 were collected, Rs. 16,247 were remitted and Rs. 2,73,567 remained outstanding. Collections in the Prithimpasa, Hoshenpur and Ilias Ali estates were not so good as in the previous year. Many *raiyats* were unable to pay their dues on account of losses caused to them by the floods. In the Prithimpasa estate there was a dispute about certain lands, which delayed payment of rents, and in the Hoshenpur estate the wards fostered opposition to the management by the Court.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Debts.

44. The debts of the Kumar Gopika Raman Ray estate, which is heavily encumbered, were reduced by Rs. 68,454, and small reductions of debt were made for the Hoshenpur and Khan Bahadur estates. Negotiations were also started to consolidate the debts of the Khan Bahadur estate by a loan of Rs. 40,000 from the Countess of Dufferin's Fund.

Management charges and improvements.

45. The cost of management rose from 16 to 20 per cent. of the current demand. The Prithimpasa estate spent a considerable sum on schools, dispensaries and works of public utility, and the Kumar Gopika Raman Ray estate contributed to the maintenance of the Raja Giris Chandra High School in Sylhet. The other estates were unable to do more than subscribe to various dispensaries.

SECTION 7.—Revenue and Rent-paying classes.

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1913-14.]

Material condition of the people.

46. The condition of the cultivators in the Surma Valley was not good and agricultural loans and gratuitous relief had to be distributed, though in some parts benefit will be derived in future from the silt deposited by the floods. In the Assam Valley conditions were more favourable, but in Kamrup some distress was caused by deposits of sand from the overflowing of the Pagladia and Beki rivers and by the Brahmaputra. In the hill districts the people were prosperous, except in the North Cachar Hills where, after two years of destruction by rats, untimely rain and drought again caused a partial failure of the crops.

Throughout the province the price of rice rose high, owing to the demand from other provinces where scarcity prevailed, and cultivators derived profit from this, but the wages of labour also rose.

CHAPTER III—PROTECTION.

SECTION 1.—Legislative Authority.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1911-12, Part II, pages 92-94.]

SECTION 2.—Course of Legislation.

47. The Legislative Council undertook no legislation during the year. The formation of new Municipalities in Sylhet and the needs of Jorhat as the headquarters of the Sibsagar district led to the extension of several Acts, as set forth in the following table —

Act.	Town to which Act was extended.
1. Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, XI of 1890 ...	Jorhat.
2. Public Gambling Act, III of 1867, Sections 3 to 12 and 14 to 16	Jorhat, Habiganj, Sunamganj, Karimganj, Maulvi Bazar.
3. Police Act, V of 1861	Jorhat, Nowgong.
4. Bengal Cruelty to Animals (Arrest) Act, III of 1869 ...	Jorhat, Nowgong.
5. Bengal Vaccination Act, V of 1880	Jorhat, Nowgong, Habiganj.
6. Bengal Births and Deaths Registration Act, IV of 1873 ...	Jorhat, Nowgong, Karimganj.
7. Bengal Municipal Act, III of 1884, Part IX	Karimganj, Habiganj, Sunamganj.
8. Bengal Act V of 1876	Maulvi Bazar.

SECTION 3.—Police.

MILITARY POLICE.

Strength and distribution.

48. Recruiting was carried on vigorously in order to fill up vacancies that will be caused by transfer of men to the new battalion which is being raised at Dibrugarh, and the number of recruits enlisted thus rose from 169 in the previous year to 244, of whom 83·10 per cent. were Gurkhas.

The Garo Hills detachment was amalgamated with this new battalion and a Commandant and an Assistant Commandant were appointed to it under the provisional sanction of the Government of India. A third Assistant Commandant was appointed to the Naga Hills battalion, and, in view of the formation of the new battalion, the headquarters of the Lakhimpur battalion were transferred from Dibrugarh to Sadiya.

Efficiency.

49. Drill, musketry and the standard of smartness suffered by the prolonged absence of many men on active service, by extra guard duty thus incurred by others and by the presence of a large number of recruits. Signalling also was reported to be unsatisfactory except in the Naga Hills battalion, and in all but the Lakhimpur battalion there was a slight increase in the percentage of punishments. But the military efficiency of the force has certainly been raised by its experience of active service.

Casualties.

50. Casualties increased under all heads, mainly owing to the hard work endured by all battalions since 1911, but, in the case of dismissals, which rose from 18 in the previous year to 32, to a certain laxity of discipline resulting from the constant detachment on active service of small parties under non-commissioned officers.

Health.

51. The number of deaths rose from 26 in 1912 to 34, but the percentage of admissions into hospital fell again from 70·37 to 62·80. The daily average number of sick in hospital, however, increased in all battalions.

Military operations and escort work.

52. The Naga Hills expedition, described in the report for 1912-13, was carried to a successful conclusion. The escorts with the Debong and Dehong Survey Parties returned in June and August and are reported to have performed their duties admirably in spite of bad weather and the difficulties of the country. Further escort work was done by 200 rifles of the Naga Hills battalion in the Aka country and by 40 rifles of the Lakhimpur battalion on the North-East Frontier.

PROTECTION.

Miscellaneous.

53. Twenty-five rifles of the Silchar detachment were sent to Chittagong in September toassist the railway police in guarding large consignments of rice, as many thefts were taking place. This detachment also assisted the civil authorities twice in Cachar, to prevent riots, and once in Sylhet, to supplement the armed police.

The kit allowance to recruit boys was raised from Rs. 6 to Rs. 16 and the maintenance grant from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 per annum.

CIVIL POLICE.

Strength.

54. The reorganisation of the civil police was continued during the year and 3 Inspectors, 1 Sergeant, 10 Sub-Inspectors, 33 head constables and 100 constables were added to the sanctioned strength of the force. Recruitment was also carried on more successfully and the number of men enlisted rose from 276 in 1912 to 510 in the present year. Of these 246 were recruited locally.

Efficiency.

55. The efficiency and discipline of the force still leaves much to be desired, but it is hoped that the offer of higher pay to head constables and constables will attract better material and enable a higher standard to be enforced. Moreover, some improvement has already resulted from the practice, where it has been found possible to introduce it, of training Sub-Inspectors systematically in drill and musketry at headquarters and of drilling men twice a week at thanas where such Sub-Inspectors are stationed. It is hoped by this system to imbue both officers and men with a habit of discipline.

The work of Circle Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors has been more satisfactory than it was in the previous year. Selection of Sub-Inspectors for promotion was made more strict, and failure on the part of Inspectors to supervise subordinates was met by reversion and loss of promotion.

Conduct.

56. The number of judicial punishments fell from 47 to 44, but departmental punishments rose from 929 to 1,065, the increase being greatest in the districts of Sylhet and Darrang. Seventy-five criminal charges were brought against the police, as compared with 85 in 1912. Of these, 20 were charges of bribery and extortion and they resulted in judicial conviction of three constables and in departmental action being taken against one Sub-Inspector, one head constable and two constables. Of the 75 criminal charges brought against the police, 15 ended in conviction, 15 others were declared to be true, 13 were declared to be doubtful, 3 remained pending at the close of the year and the rest were declared to be false or mistaken. No civil suit was brought against the police during the year.

Health.

57. The number of deaths was 33, an increase of 1 on the figures of the previous year, but the percentage of admissions into hospital fell from 35·6 to 33·3 in the year under report. Quinine was given twice a week to constables during the malaria season and mosquito nets were supplied in unhealthy stations.

Reserves.

58. A policy of appointing havildars of military police as Sub-Inspectors of the armed reserve was initiated and resulted in marked improvement in the discipline and efficiency of the latter force. This improvement was especially notable in Sylhet, where an *ex*-Colour Sergeant of the Royal Scots was put in charge of the armed reserve as Inspector and where the additional Superintendent of Police personally reorganised the force on the lines of a military police company.

The ordinary reserve again proved inadequate for the duties it should perform, and only in four districts could leave be granted up to the prescribed limit of 10 per cent. This must affect the popularity of the service and the question of increasing the reserve is under consideration.

Railway Police.

59 A reversion to the procedure, which was in force prior to the year 1909 and under which all missing goods cases were sent to the police for enquiry, instead of those only that were suspected to be criminal, resulted in raising the number of these cases from 65 in 1912 to 1,526. Of these, 146 were reported to be criminal, as compared with 24 in the previous year. This great increase was due not only to the change in procedure, but largely to a great number of petty thefts which accompanied abnormally heavy rice traffic from Burma in August and September. These thefts ceased at once when small detachments of military police were posted at Chandpur, Laksam and Chittagong.

Running train thefts and cases of stone-throwing increased slightly, but there was a satisfactory decrease in cases of obstruction.

It is regrettable that the number of accidents rose from 97 to 143, though of these only 49 were fatal. They were due mainly to trespass on the line by pedestrians.

River Police.

60. The Bengal river police maintained their stations at Markuli and Madna, but a launch was acquired by this Administration to patrol waterways of the Sylhet district in localities where dacoity prevails.

Training Schools.

61. The question of establishing a combined training school for probationers, cadets and recruits was still being considered at the close of the year.

Rural Police.

62. The chaukidari system was in force only in three districts of the province. Chaukidars reported vital statistics and occurrences of crime fairly well, but failed to give much help to the police in preventing crime. The number of chaukiders punished was very large, especially in the Sylhet district. The number rewarded was again low. The Chief Commissioner took up before the close of the year the question of making the chaukidari force more efficient and he has addressed Commissioners on the subject. He has no doubt that with the exercise of reasonable care a great improvement can be effected.

Finance.

63. The nett cost of the department rose from Rs. 20,47,895 in 1912 to Rs. 23,24,281 in the year under report. The increase was due mainly to additional establishment and to the construction of new buildings under the scheme for reorganising the district police.

Crime.

64. There was a further large increase of 2,238 in the number of cognizable cases. Of those reported or referred to the police, 39·7 per cent. came to trial, as compared with 41·4 per cent. in 1912, but the percentage of convictions rose from 79·1 per cent. to 81·8 per cent. in the year under report.

Floods and a consequent rise in the price of food resulted in a large number of offences against property in the Sylhet district, and in Kamrup an increase in serious crime is attributed to immigration and importation of up-country men belonging to criminal classes.

Special attention was given to these up-country criminals in the Assam Valley and in the case of two gangs convictions were secured. In the Surma Valley preventive measures were taken in the district of Sylhet. The issue of formal notices to landowners on whose property breaches of the peace were apprehended is reported to have had a good effect, and a notorious gang of river dakaits was registered under the Criminal Tribes Act.

The number of processes, other than warrants, sent by Magistrates for service by the police was unduly large. The service of these processes hampers the police in their proper criminal work and should be imposed on them as little as possible. The attention of officers of both services is also drawn to the inadequate use made of the preventive sections and section 250 of the Criminal Procedure Code and of sections 174, 182 and 211 of the Indian Penal Code.

Political crime.

65. The year was marked by an attempt to assassinate Mr. Gordon, Subdivisional Officer of Maulvi Bazar, with a picric acid bomb. The attempt failed owing to the premature explosion of the bomb, by which the would-be assassin was killed. Two revolvers were found on the body of the assassin and, on examination, the bomb was found to be almost identical with those used in the outrages at Delhi, Lahore, Midnapur and Dalhousie Square. Enquiries into this crime were made, but had not been successful by the close of the year.

Twenty-two cases were reported of seditious leaflets being received through the post or found pasted up in public places, schools and colleges. There were also several instances of anonymous threatening letters being received through the post by officials and others.

Miscellaneous.

66. The strength of the Criminal Investigation Department was increased during the year to a force of 4 Inspectors, 4 Sub-Inspectors, 3 head constables and 8 constables. Some cases of murder and dacoity were dealt with and also 22 cases of fraudulent transactions by agents of insurance companies.

The small finger-print bureau had 1,139 search slips submitted to it during the year and traced previous convictions in 68 cases.

SECTION 4.—Criminal Justice.

PLAINS DISTRICTS.

Staff.

67. Two Sessions Judges, one additional Sessions Judge, eight District Magistrates, seventy-two stipendiary Magistrates and twenty-nine Honorary Magistrates were employed on criminal work during the year.

Magistrates' courts.

68. Compared with the previous year noticeable features of the work of 1913 were an increase in the number of offences reported, in the number of cases accepted as true and in the number of cases brought to trial, and a decrease in the ratio of complaints dismissed and cases struck off to the total number of cases and in the ratio of persons convicted to the total number of accused whose cases were decided finally. The figures are given in the following table:—

—	Offences reported.	Cases accepted as true.	Cases brought to trial.	Ratio of complaints dismissed.	Ratio of persons convicted.
1	2	3	4	5	6
				Per cent.	Per cent.
1913	41,767	27,427	19,520	34·1	42·7
1912	39,174	24,837	17,422	35·8	44·6

The number of persons whose cases were decided by Magistrates was 31,638, and of these, 13,515 were convicted, 4,509 on summary and 9,006 on regular trial. In cases under the Indian Penal Code, however, only 7,048 persons, 34·2 per cent. of those tried, were convicted.

The number of witnesses examined was 59,660, of whom 77 per cent. were discharged on the first day of trial and 858 were detained for more than three days.

At the close of the year 2,014 persons were awaiting trial and 114 were in custody.

Magistrates sentenced 3,191 persons to imprisonment, 9,713 to fines, 138 to be whipped and 270 to fulfil contracts under Act XIII of 1859. The fines imposed amounted to Rs. 1,22,554, of which Rs. 1,02,628 were realised and Rs. 23,346 were paid as compensation to complainants.

Bonds for keeping the peace were taken from 1,142 persons and 291 persons were required to furnish security for good behaviour. Of the latter, 212 persons, in default of furnishing security, were sentenced to imprisonment. In 107 cases complainants were found to have brought frivolous or vexatious charges and were ordered to pay compensation to the accused.

Courts of Session.

69. Two hundred and fifty-eight cases, involving 438 persons, were tried during the year, and 24 cases, involving 58 persons, were pending at its close. Of the persons tried, 322 were convicted and sentenced in the Sessions Court, 106 were discharged or acquitted and 10 were referred for orders of the High Court.

Sentence of death was passed on 7 persons, but on reference to the High Court, the order was confirmed only in the case of two persons, 4 of the others being sentenced to transportation for life and one dying before orders were passed. Twenty persons were sentenced to transportation for life, 12 to transportation for a term of years, 286 to rigorous imprisonment and 22 to fines aggregating Rs. 2,460.

In the cases of 139 persons tried by jury the Judge agreed with the verdict in regard to 89 persons and disagreed in regard to 50 persons. Reference was made to the High Court under section 307 of the Criminal Procedure Code with regard to 3 persons. The opinion of the Judge was accepted in each case, two of the persons being acquitted and one convicted.

In trials with the aid of assessors the Judge concurred with both assessors in 145 instances and with one in 24 instances. In 21 instances he disagreed with both assessors.

The number of witnesses examined before the Courts of Session was 2,226, of whom 573, or 25·7 per cent., were detained for more than three days. The average duration of cases in these courts was 42·1 days.

Appellate Jurisdiction, The High Court.

70. The High Court disposed of 117 appeals during the year. The sentences passed in the Sessions Courts were upheld in 95 cases, reversed in 9 and varied in 11, and 2 cases were remanded for re-trial. Four appeals remained for disposal at the end of the year.

71. Six hundred and sixty-six appeals, involving 1,204 persons, were disposed of during the year. The original sentence was confirmed in 62·7 per cent. of the cases, modified in 15·5 per cent. and reversed in 23 per cent. of the cases. New trials were ordered in the case of 6 persons and in one case the proceedings were quashed. Sessions Courts.

72. District Magistrates disposed of the appeals of 714 persons, dismissing the appeal in 67·3 per cent. of the cases, modifying the original sentence in 11·9 per cent. and reversing it in 19·7 per cent. New trials were ordered in seven instances. Magistrates.

73. Applications for revision of orders passed by lower courts were decided in 210 cases by the High Court, in 338 cases by Court of Session and in 262 cases by District Magistrates. Revision.

74. Charges incurred in criminal courts in Assam amounted to Rs. 3,76,492 and receipts to Rs. 2,19,990, exceeding by Rs. 33,613 and Rs. 23,886, respectively, the figures of the previous year. Receipts and charges.

HILL DISTRICTS AND FRONTIER TRACTS.

75. During the year 1,260 cases, involving 1,701 persons were brought to trial. Of these persons, 1,220 were convicted, 405 were acquitted or discharged, 34 died, escaped or were transferred and 42 remained under trial at the end of the year. No person was sentenced to death and only one to transportation. Forty-two persons appealed against the sentences or orders of lower courts. In five cases the original order was modified, one case remained pending at the end of the year and in the remaining cases the original order was confirmed.

SECTION 5.—Jails.

[*See* Report on the Jail Administration in the Province of Assam for the year 1913; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

76. There was no change in the number of jails and sub-jails, but the status of the jails at Gauhati and Tezpur was lowered to that of the third class. General.

77. Admissions fell from 9,651 in 1912 to 9,523 in 1913, but the total number of prisoners rose from 11,233 to 11,421, and the daily average number from 1,828·23 to 1,917·91. Population.

Of the convicts admitted, ·35 per cent. were Christians, 39·41 per cent. were Muhammadans, 53·43 per cent. were Hindus and Sikhs, and ·08 per cent. were Budhists and Jains. Among them were 128 females and 8 persons under 16 years of age.

The daily average number of undertrial prisoners was 216·17 and their average period of detention in Magistrates' cases was for 14·07 days. In 15 cases prisoners were detained for over 3 months, 4 of these cases occurring at Jorhat. The number of civil prisoners was 61.

78. The daily average number of sick fell from 68·80 to 64·68 per diem, but the death-rate rose from 36·10 to 40·67 per mille. Dysentery and pneumonia were responsible for 32 of the 78 deaths that occurred. The Inspector General made personal inquiries and found that Superintendents of Jails were of opinion that dysentery forms the last stage of a case of ankylostome infection, which is very common in Assam. He also observed that a larger proportion of prisoners is admitted to jail in bad health in Assam than in other provinces, and noted that 14·1 per cent. of the deaths occurred within 3 weeks of admission. Defective ventilation was not uncommon and proposals are being submitted for improvement in this respect. Instructions have also been issued for the provision of extra clothing, where necessary, and it is proposed to provide each jail with a boiler for blankets and clothes and a bacteriological miscroscope. Overcrowding occurred again in sub-jails, but, towards the close of the year, the Local Administration issued orders regulating the provision of police escorts for the transfer of prisoners and, in future, accommodation in sub-jails should not be strained unduly. Health.

79. Criminal courts inflicted 12 punishments on convicts, and 1,870 minor and 624 major punishments were inflicted by Superintendents of Jails. Discipline.

There were 14 escapes during the year, four being from within sub-jails and in broad daylight. Many jails are still surrounded only by bamboo palisades and the escape of prisoners is thereby facilitated. The Local Administration, however, has sanctioned a scheme for erecting masonry walls round all jails and, when this is done, the number of escapes should decrease largely.

Employment and Finance.

80. An average of 44·10 per cent. of the prisoners was employed on manufactures and extramural work. Profits exceeded those earned in 1912 by Rs. 8,655, but, owing to large cash drafts by the Sylhet jail and to large stocks of manufactured articles remaining in hand at Gauhati, cash earnings fell from Rs. 30,109 to Rs. 11,561.

Expenditure on guarding and maintaining prisoners fell from Rs. 1,89,975 to Rs. 1,87,750, but the decline in cash earnings raised the nett cost from Rs. 1,47,947 to Rs. 1,65,068.

SECTION 6.—Civil Justice.

PLAINS DISTRICTS.

Staff.

81. The Civil Judicial staff of the province consisted of two District Judges, one Additional District Judge, nine Subordinate Judges and 30 Munsifs. Of these, two Subordinate Judges and 10 Munsifs employed in Sylhet were members of the judicial branch of the Provincial Executive Service and the remainder were Executive Officers vested with judicial powers.

Suits.

82. The number of original suits instituted rose from 38,730 in 1912 to 41,139, and the number of suits for disposal rose from 48,135 in 1912 to 51,656 in 1913. Of these 40,466 suits were disposed of in the course of the year. In every case the increase was confined to the Surma Valley, there being a decrease of 103 institutions and of 549 disposals in the Assam Valley. The number of cases pending over one year rose from 199 in 1912 to 233, out of a total of 11,814 cases pending at the close of the year.

Of the suits instituted, 29,188 were for money or moveables and 7,878 for rent Title and other suits numbered 4,073.

The improvement noted last year was not maintained and the average duration of suits before all courts increased, except in the case of uncontested suits under the ordinary procedure before Subordinate Judges.

Execution proceedings.

83. The number of disposals of applications for execution of decrees was 21,337. Nine hundred and twenty-four applications were transferred and 4,460 remained pending at the close of the year. In 68·3 per cent. of the cases the proceedings were returned as unsuccessful and only in 6,764 cases was satisfaction obtained in whole or part, the total amount realised being Rs. 5,01,164.

Coercive measures were used in 1,707 cases, including 38 cases in which judgment-debtors were imprisoned, and in 1,625 cases possession of immoveable property was given. In each respect these figures are lower than those of the previous year.

Miscellaneous.

84. The number of miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature instituted during the year was 3,744, and of these 3,661 were disposed of and 814 were left pending.

Of non-judicial cases, mainly for deposit of rent, institutions numbered 926 and disposals 873.

Appeals—(a) In the High Court.

85. There were 271 appeals from decrees before the High Court during the year Of these 122 were decided, the decree of the lower court being reversed or varied in 15 and confirmed in 101 cases. Six cases were remanded to the lower courts.

(b) In Courts subordinate to the High Court.

86. The number of appeals before civil courts was 1,667, but disposals were only 613, giving a ratio of 36·77 per cent. for disposals, which compares unfavourably with that of 66·81 per cent. in the previous year. This left 1,064 appeals pending, of which 131 were pending for over one year. The figures for 1912 were 559 and 20, respectively.

The decrees of the lower courts were affirmed in 71·9 per cent., modified in 10·3 per cent. and reversed in 14·3 per cent. of the appeals decided. These results are less favourable to the lower courts than those of the previous year.

Receipts and charges.

87. Receipts fell to Rs. 6,20,880 and charges rose to Rs. 2,86,767, giving a decrease of Rs. 6,872 in the surplus.

HILL DISTRICTS AND FRONTIER TRACTS.

88. In the Hill districts 1,588 suits, of an aggregate value of Rs. 1,63,780, were instituted. The number of suits for disposal was 1,813 and of these 91 were transferred, 1,622 decided and 100 left pending. Of 47 appeals before the Courts, 42 were decided. The appellants were wholly or partly successful in 23 and wholly unsuccessful in 18 cases, and one case was remanded.

SECTION 7.—Registration.

[*See* Statistical Returns of the Registration Department in Assam for the year 1913; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

General. 89. The opening of a temporary *ex-officio* office at Palonghat in the Cachar district raised the number of offices in the province to 38. The cadre of Sub-Registrars was re-adjusted from April 1st, 1913.

Documents. 90. The number of documents registered rose from 74,239 in 1912 to 80,076 in 1913, the main increase being under the heads of 'sales' and 'mortgages' in the Surma Valley, where floods damaged the crops and food prices rose high.

Receipts and expenditure. 91. Receipts rose to Rs. 1,00,958 and expenditure to Rs. 57,868, the surplus for the year exceeding that in 1912 by Rs. 8,018.

Muhammadan Marriage and Divorce Registration Act. 92. The number of ceremonies registered exceeded those of last year by 1,445, the main increase being in the district of Sylhet. In the Assam Valley some improvement was observed in Darrang and Nowgong, but, in Goalpara, village *mollas* are reported to be opposed to this form of registration.

The total income of Muhammadan Registrars rose to Rs. 10,584-2-0.

Indian Companies Act. 93. Fifteen new companies were registered during the year, as compared with 7 in the previous year, the increase probably being due to a desire to register before the 1st April 1914, when a new Act came into force. Of these new companies, 8 were to carry on loan and banking business, 4 for cultivation, fish culture and the acquisition of estates, 2 for printing and publishing and 1 to take over a hotel.

At the close of the year there were 71 registered companies with an aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 12,84,084.

SECTION 8.—Municipal Administration.

[*See* Resolution reviewing the Reports on the working of Municipalities in Assam during the year 1913-14; Statistics of British India, Part VIII.]

Constitution. 94. The year was marked by an increase in the number of municipalities in the Surma Valley and by the grant of wider powers to existing bodies in the Assam Valley. Under Act III of 1884 new municipalities were constituted at Karimganj and Sunamganj and the Habiganj Union was raised to the status of a municipality, and under Act V of 1876 a union was established at Maulvi Bazar. Sections 3 to 12 and 14 to 16 of Act III of 1867 were extended to Habiganj, Sunamganj and Maulvi Bazar, Part IX of Act III (B.C.), 1884, to Habiganj and Karimganj, Act V (B.C.), 1880, to Habiganj, Act IV (B.C.), 1873, to Karimganj. In the Assam Valley, Part VII of Act III (B.C.), 1884, Act III of 1867 and Act XI, 1890, were extended to Jorhat, and Act V, 1861, Act III (B.C.), 1869, Act V (B.C.), 1880, and Act IV (B.C.), 1873, were extended to Jorhat and Nowgong. The number of meetings held by municipal bodies rose to 227, of which 11 failed for lack of a quorum, and the average percentage of attendance fell from 66·37 to 65·39.

Taxation. 95. Revisions of assessment were made in four municipalities, but only at Dhubri was an appreciable increase of receipts obtained. The number of rate-payers rose from 20,153 to 21,360 and the incidence of taxation per head of population continued to show a satisfactory increase. In 1911-12 it was Re. 1-8-5 per head, in 1912-13 it was Re. 1-10 and in 1913-14 it rose to Re. 1-12-2. Since the close of the year the Sylhet Municipality has been induced to reconsider its financial position and to utilise more fully its local resources.

Income. 96. Contributions from Government fell from Rs. 2,38,797 to Rs. 1,93,384, but receipts from local sources rose from Rs. 2,74,705 to Rs. 3,07,794, thus yielding a nett increase of Rs. 26,877 in total income.

Expenditure. 97. Total expenditure rose from Rs. 4,99,854 to Rs. 5,21,255 and ordinary expenditure, excluding repayments of loans, deposits, etc., rose by Rs. 19,318 to Rs. 5,10,591.

Water-supply. 98. Capital outlay on water-supply fell from Rs. 1,17,741 to Rs. 41,902, but maintenance charges rose from Rs. 28,245 to Rs. 52,035. Since the close of the year detailed estimates for water-works at Silchar and rough projects for similar works at Sylhet, Tezpur and Dhubri have been sanctioned, and methods of financing a project at Dibrugarh are being considered. The Chief Commissioner has also directed meters to be attached to all private connections in Gauhati where water has been wasted persistently.

Public Works. 99. Expenditure rose from Rs. 95,125 to Rs. 1,36,827 and was directed mainly to the improvement of roads.

Conservancy. 100. Expenditure on conservancy showed a steady and satisfactory increase from Rs. 1,14,515 to Rs. 1,33,194. In 1911-12 expenditure under this head had amounted to Rs. 1,07,195. Since the close of the year proposals for extensive improvements to the conservancy arrangements at Sylhet and Dibrugarh have been approved and schemes for the drainage of Gauhati and Dibrugarh and for the general improvement of Karimganj have been submitted for consideration by the Sanitary Board.

Financial position. 101. Aggregate closing balances rose from Rs. 2,18,439 to Rs. 2,52,194. At the close of the year three municipalities had outstanding loans to meet, but their liabilities were not heavy, and, on the whole, the financial position of the municipalities was sound. At Dibrugarh again the closing balance was unnecessarily high.

Audit. 102. Some improvement was noticed in account matters, but, in several cases, insufficient attention was paid to instructions given in former audit notes. A tax collector of the Goalpara Municipality was prosecuted for embezzlement and sentenced to 9 months' rigorous imprisonment and at Shillong the cashier was permitted to resign on making good a deficit in his accounts.

General. 103. The chairmen at Silchar and Gauhati were elected by the members, a privilege which was exercised for the first time and with much appreciation at the former town. The new municipalities in the Sylhet district entered on their duties with keen interest and have extensive schemes of improvement under consideration. Real progress was also made with plans for water-supply, conservancy and drainage in other towns of the province.

SECTION 9.—Local Boards.

[*See* Resolution on the working of Local Boards in Assam during the year 1913-14; Statistics of British India, Part VIII.]

Constitution. 104. The constitution of the Boards was not altered during the year, but two members were added to the Silchar Board to give further representation to the tea industry and the rural community. The average attendance of all members rose from 60·76 to 62·42, and, with but few exceptions, members are reported to have shown keen interest in the work of their Boards.

Finance. 105. The opening balance of the Boards aggregated Rs. 6,09,387. Their total income amounted to Rs. 38,19,544 and their expenditure to Rs. 30,11,186, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 8,08,358. The ratio of closing balance to total income exceeded 25 per cent. in Dhubri (36·4), Mangaldai (30·47), Nowgong (28·9), Gauhati (27·2), and Goalpara (26·6). The large increase in the income of the Boards, from Rs. 23,88,904 to Rs. 31,35,743, was due mainly to special grants for communications, rural water-supply and education.

The work of the year. (a) Education. 106. Expenditure on education rose from Rs. 5,63,657 to Rs. 6,32,365, of which Rs. 3,09,878 were received as contributions from Government, an increase of 19·4 per cent. on the contributions given in the previous year. The percentage of local income spent by the Boards on education varied from 11 per cent. in Golaghat to 52 per cent. in South Sylhet and Hailakandi. The special feature of the year was the abolition of fees in vernacular schools, which led to a most satisfactory increase in the number of pupils attending middle vernacular schools. Important steps were also taken towards improving the standard of primary education by raising the pay of teachers in primary schools and by allotting grants for the construction of buildings of a better type.

(b) Medical. 107. Expenditure rose from Rs. 2,11,508 to Rs. 2,48,452, the increase occurring chiefly in the Surma Valley, and the number of dispensaries maintained and aided by the Boards was increased by one to 123. Female doctors or midwives were employed by all Boards in the Surma Valley and by five Boards in the Assam Valley, and several Boards provided for the distribution of medicines at markets. A scheme for a joint medical service was initiated by the Civil Surgeon and accepted by the five Boards of the Sylhet district.

The Boards generally spend all that they can afford on medical relief, but are unable to provide for an adequate standard of maintenance in existing dispensaries or to increase their number in response to the growing demand.

(c) Sanitary improvement and rural water-supply. 108. The experiment of allotting small sums to selected villages for the improvement of rural sanitation was repeated. In all Rs. 12,000 were thus distributed and the results are reported to have been satisfactory, except in Gauhati and in two villages of Sunamganj. The organisation of village authorities, to which this experiment was preliminary, will now be taken up in a few circles and these grants will in future be confined to villages included in those circles.

The Chief Commissioner held a conference in June 1913, to discuss questions of sanitation and water-supply and, as an immediate result, an allotment of Rs. 10,000 was made to each Board for the provision of drinking water in rural areas. All Boards were directed also to prepare programmes for the systematic improvement of their rural water-supply during a period of five years, and type plans for tanks and wells were prepared. The total expenditure of the Boards on sanitation and water-supply rose to Rs. 2,36,768, which represents an increase of 49 per cent. over the expenditure of the previous year, although pressure of other work and local difficulties prevented several Boards from utilising fully the grants given to them for these purposes.

109. Further allotments were made out of the grant of 15 lakhs given for communications in 1912, and first allotments of a second grant of 10 lakhs were also distributed. In all Rs. 21,70,991 were allotted for Public Works and Rs. 19,44,001 were spent, the figures for the previous year being Rs. 13,78,651 and Rs. 12,35,539. The ratio of lapses to allotments rose from 10·38 per cent. in the previous year to 10·46 per cent. The highest percentage of lapses to allotments occurred in Dhubri (35·20), Goalpara (23·72), Habiganj (22·53) and Hailakandi (19·74). In Tezpur and North Sylhet expenditure slightly exceeded allotment. (d) Public Works.

Many of the works financed from the grant of 1912 are being executed for the Boards by the Public Works Department, but all projects under the second grant are being carried out by the Boards' own agency. At the end of the year, under allotments from the first grant, the Public Works Department had constructed 5½ miles of new road, metalled or improved 82½ miles of existing roads and built 13 permanent bridges and 7 culverts. Under both grants the Boards themselves had constructed 104 miles of new road, metalled or improved 160½ miles of existing roads and built 97 permanent and 37 semi-permanent bridges and 91 culverts.

110. Veterinary charges rose from Rs. 20,144 to Rs. 25,087. The Silchar, South Sylhet, Tezpur and Dibrugarh Boards entertained second veterinary assistants during the year, but, though provision was made, qualified men could not be obtained for the Boards at Hailakandi, Sunamganj, Goalpara, Barpeta and Mangaldai. (e) Veterinary.

The North Sylhet Board again held a cattle show and a marked improvement was noted in the quality of the exhibits.

111. The great increase in the grants for sanitation and water-supply, for school buildings and for public works strained severely the resources of the Boards. Moreover, labour and contractors were scarce, much delay occurred in obtaining materials from Calcutta, floods hindered preparations and in both valleys early rain interfered with the excavation of tanks and the building of bridges. Yet the progress made was even more marked than in the previous year and the percentage of lapses showed only a very slight increase. Projects initiated in 1912 were advanced far towards completion, minor works under the grant of 1913 were completed and extensive preparations were made to push forward rapidly the major projects of the year in the next working season. With but few exceptions the officers, members and staff of the Boards showed an interest and energy in their work which promises well for their administration under the more extensive powers with which they will be invested by the Local Self-Government Act. (f) General.

SECTION 10.—Military (Volunteering).

MILITARY (VOLUNTEERS).

112. The undermentioned Volunteer Corps were in existence during 1913-14:—

(1) Assam Valley Light Horse.

(2) Surma „ „ „

The total number of volunteers was—

	On 1st April 1913.	On 1st April 1914.
Officers	86	76
Rank and file	864	898

The numbers on 1st April 1914 were made up as follows:—

Corps.	Officers (including staff and supernumerary officers).	Rank and file.	Reservists.	
			Officers.	Rank and file.
1	2	3	4	5
Surma Valley Light Horse	37	324	Nil	16
Assam „ „ „	35	479	4	79
Total ...	72	803	4	95

SECTION 11.—Marine.

Nil.

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

SECTION 1.—Agriculture and Horticulture.

[*See* Report of the Agricultural Department, Assam, for the year ending 30th June 1914.]

Staff.

113. The staff was strengthened materially during the year. An Agricultural Supervisor and two probationary District Agricultural Officers were at work throughout the year. In December 1913 an Entomological Assistant was appointed and in January 1914 Mr. A. A. Meggitt, B.SC., took up his duties as Agricultural Chemist. In July last moreover Mr. C. S. Chaston was appointed manager of the new sugarcane experiment station at Khagrabari.

Scholarships and Education.

114. In the report for the previous year it was noted with regret that two successive nominees failed to utilise the scholarships given to them for training at the Sabour Agricultural College owing to their distaste for manual labour. In 1913 matters were far more satisfactory. A fieldman clerk from the Jorhat farm was given this scholarship and three youths of the province joined the college as private students. Two Khasi lads were also sent for training to the Rose Filatures concern near Plassy and obtained certificates as trained silk-reelers. Moreover, in order to meet the need for fieldmen demonstrators, the annual appointment of two apprentices at Jorhat and two at Karimganj has been sanctioned.

Experiment and Research.

115. New stations were opened at Khagrabari in Kamrup for sugarcane experiments on a large scale and with steam tackle, and at Karimganj for experiments in the culture of rice. At Jorhat striking results were obtained from the use of ground limestone together with green manure, and the agricultural chemist devoted his time to soil investigation work and analyses of sugarcane. The exotic varieties of cane—B 147 and B 376—continued to show their superiority over local varieties. Good work was also done at the fruit station in Shillong and a large crop of potatoes was realised at the farm and sold as seed mainly in the Khasi Hills. At Karimganj an experiment in the line breeding of rice was initiated in consultation with the Economic Botanist of Bengal and the Entomological Assistant made a useful survey of the insect pests that attack the main crops of the province.

Demonstration.

116. Manurial demonstrations with bonemeal and flour phosphate were made with success in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and in Sibsagar, but in Kamrup and Sylhet floods prevented definite results. In Kamrup and Sibsagar roller iron mills for crushing sugarcane and in Sylhet and Kamrup improved weaving looms were sent out and were much appreciated, but without aid from co-operative societies or otherwise few cultivators can afford to purchase them. Dry cultivation on terraces proved a failure in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, was considered a most unattractive substitute for *jhuming* by the Lushais and made but slow progress in the Naga Hills. In the two former districts experiments will be made with wet rice cultivation, but an assistant has been appointed to try terrace cultivation in the Garo Hills.

Demonstrations in the grafting and budding of fruit trees were made in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and in the Lushai Hills, and in the latter district the cultivation of fruit is reported to be increasing in popularity.

At Nakachari a most interesting experiment was made by an honorary correspondent who, by planting only two instead of from 6 to 10 seedlings in a bunch, obtained an increase of 44·2 per cent. in the yield of paddy.

Sericulture.

117. Experiments were made with French silkworm seed and with cellular eggs sent from France by M. Leon Delonca, who has been cross breeding in order to produce a worm that will thrive in Assam. Both kinds did well, but the Delonca cocoons were slightly heavier and gave a larger outturn of raw silk.

Live stock.

118 Breeding operations were continued at Upper Shillong and 8 bulls were sold but the practice of lending bulls for breeding purposes was discontinued as the animals were neglected by the borrowers. Sheep did not do well and do not seem to thrive on the Khasi plateau. Poultry breeding was continued at Aijal, but in the Lushai villages, English breeds, with the exception of Langshans, have practically died out.

Shows.

119. An agricultural show was held successfully in Shillong on the 1st September, a date which suited vegetable and field crops, and the Siems and other Khasis interested in agriculture were conducted over the Upper Shillong station in July.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Miscellaneous.

120. A weaving master was employed throughout the year and made very successful demonstrations at Beani Bazar, Palasbari and other places. The Salvation Army loom, though regarded with much favour by the weavers, was found to be too expensive, but the weaving master was able to show that the ordinary loom could be improved considerably at a small cost. He also assisted in organising a weavers' co-operative society at Beani Bazar. Another society of weavers was formed at Sualkuchi and the bye-laws of several societies near Palasbari were altered to admit of co-operative methods of production and sale. A depôt for the supply of seeds, manures, implements, etc., was opened at Gauhati, and seed was supplied to several co-operative societies. At Upper Shillong arrangements are being made to crush bones for sale to Khasi cultivators.

SECTION 2.—Co-operative Societies.

[*See* Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Assam for the year ending the 31st March 1914; Statistics of British India, Part II.]

Strength.

121. During the year the number of societies rose from 188 with 10,945 members to 249 with 13,629 members, and their aggregate working capital rose from Rs. 5,56,098 to Rs. 6,84,805. The number of central banks and unions did not alter, but agricultural societies increased from 164 to 224 and non-agricultural societies from 15 to 16. The number of members increased in all except the non-agricultural societies, in which it fell from 1,733 to 1,672.

Central banks and unions.

122. The total working capital of central banks and unions amounted to Rs. 1,71,417 and their total profits to Rs. 6,096-8-8. Of these sums the central banks at Shillong and Silchar accounted for Rs. 1,60,717 and Rs. 5,522-15-11, respectively. The Shillong bank issues loans to societies only, but loans from the Silchar bank are also taken by individual members. In 1913-14 such loans amounted to Rs. 12,722, of which the major portion was issued for repayment of old debts, purchase of land, marriage expenses and house building.

Of the banking unions those at Golaghat and Jorhat did useful work, but that at Sibsagar showed a loss of Rs. 29-1-3. The unions at Palasbari and Salchapra did excellent work in supervising their affiliated societies, but that at Gauripur showed little improvement.

Agricultural societies.

123. The total capital of agricultural societies rose from Rs. 2,34,750 to Rs. 2,89,612, of which deposits by members accounted for 31·30 per cent. This percentage was less than that in the previous year, but, as loans are no longer given by Government, the deposits were probably all genuine. The total amount of loans issued was Rs. 1,44,422-8-5, of which the major portion was for repayment of old debts purchase of cattle, agricultural improvements and trade. The profits of these societies amounting to Rs. 13,363-5-1 were carried to the reserve fund. Two societies in Sylhet and one in Cachar had to be wound up during the year and some of the smaller societies formed out of the former mauza societies in the Assam Valley did not work well and needed more local supervision.

Non-agricultural societies.

124. Capital increased from Rs. 1,80,251 to Rs. 2,23,776, of which deposits from members accounted for 36·94 per cent. and deposits from non-members for 26·61 per cent. Loans to the amount of Rs. 1,09,821 were issued, mainly for repayment of old debts, purchase of land, house building and trade. An interesting experiment was the formation of a society as a co-operative dairy and stores.

Reserve funds.

125. The reserve funds of central banks and unions increased from Rs. 4,108-15-2 to Rs. 6,125-5-11, mainly owing to the expansion of the two central banks. Agricultural societies showed an increase from Rs. 32,689-8-0 to Rs. 40,091-1-5 and non-agricultural societies from Rs. 10,404-3-5 to Rs. 12,863-1-8. The banking unions still suffered from a difficulty in obtaining funds and those at Sibsagar and Dibrugarh were practically stagnant throughout the year. Agricultural societies however seem to be gaining public confidence and their deposits from non-members increased from Rs. 5,463 to Rs. 10,774.

General.

126. The increase in the number of societies was considerable, but further supervision is essential, and the Local Administration therefore proposes to appoint an officer who will be able to devote more personal attention to the societies than is possible under existing arrangements. Hitherto societies have confined themselve mainly to credit business, but the formation of a dairy society at Sunamganj and of weaving societies in Sylhet and Kamrup and the purchase of improved sugar-crushing mills by some societies in Kamrup would seem to point to a gradual recognition of a wider filed for co-operative activity.

SECTION 3.—Weather and Crops.

[*See* Report on Season and Crops of Assam for the year ending 31st March 1914; Agricultural Statistics of British India, Volume I, Appendix A.]

Weather.

127. In the Brahmaputra Valley the rainfall was below the normal in April and from June to September, but in May and in the autumn and winter it was in excess. The deficiency from June to September was unfavourable to rice crops and the excess in the rest of the year did some damage to oilseeds.

In the Surma Valley rainfall was in excess from March till August and caused heavy floods in July. In August and September and in the autumn rainfall was in defect, but in the winter it was again above normal. The floods caused serious damage to autumn and broadcast winter rice and to jute, but the weather was on the whole favourable to spring rice and oilseeds, and transplanted rice received benefit from silt deposited by the floods.

Crops.

128. The area under autumn rice fell from 8,26,846 acres to 8,12,961 acres, mainly owing to the floods in the Surma Valley. On the other hand the eagerness of cultivators in Sylhet to transplant rice after the floods subsided led to a rise in the area under winter rice from 34,43,572 acres in 1912-13 to 35,14,086 acres in 1913-14. The area under spring rice, which is grown mainly in Sylhet, but the cultivation of which is being extended to Goalpara by immigrants from Mymensingh, showed no marked variation.

Sugarcane, oilseeds and jute show a small increase in area, owing to favourable weather and the expansion of jute cultivation in Kamrup, Darrang and Nowgong.

Cotton showed a slight decrease owing to lack of rain in the sowing season, and the area under maize and crops grown for silk was also somewhat smaller.

Outturn and prices.

129. The outturn of the rice crop showed a decrease of 6,07,965 tons, mainly owing to the floods in the Surma Valley. Exports were also large and the average retail price rose from Rs. 4·238 per maund at the beginning of the year to Rs. 5·378 per maund in October, and then fell to Rs. 4·418 by the close of the year.

In spite of damage in the Surma Valley favourable conditions elsewhere maintained the outturn of jute at 79 per cent. of the normal and an actual increase of 1,539 bales was produced. The outturn of oilseeds rose from 88 to 91 per cent. of the normal, but sugarcane fell from 102 to 99 per cent. owing to unfavourable weather in some districts.

The price of pulse remained almost stationary, but mustard and *gur* showed a moderate fall.

General.

130. On the whole the year was not unfavourable. Cultivators benefited by the high prices of rice and jute, and, in the Surma Valley, the serious losses caused by floods in July and lack of rain in August and September should be recouped in a large measure by heavier crops in future from areas in which silt was deposited.

SECTION 4.—Forests.

[*See* Progress Report of Forest Administration in the Province of Assam for 1913-14, and Statistics of British India Part IV(*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

Area and Settlement.

131. Only 265 acres were added during the year to the area of reserved forests, which remained approximately at 4,381 square miles. In unclassed State forests 1,26,684 acres were added and 1,99,337 acres were excluded, the total area decreasing from 18,514 to 18,401 square miles.

The main work of the year was the examination of unclassed State forests with a view to reservation in order to protect and cultivate high class timber and to supply local needs. At the beginning of the year 182·4 square miles were under settlement and 107 square miles were taken in hand during the year, a special officer being appointed for the Longai-Singla area of 28 square miles in Sylhet. In addition proposals affecting 386 square miles in the Western Circle were prepared and submitted to Government, and in the Eastern Circle, although proceedings with regard to the Langting Mupa reserve of 118 square miles were cancelled, the settlement of 65 square miles in the Sibsagar and Naga Hills districts and of 102 square miles in the North Cachar Hills was under consideration. In the Cachar district also various areas were examined in conjunction with the local authorities and planting interests with a view to possible disforestation.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Working plans.

132. No new working plans were sanctioned or under preparation, but attempts were made in the Garo Hills and Cachar to regularise work by rough schemes for felling coupes. Lack of demand for timber and difficulties of transport interfered with work in several reserves and the examination of areas proposed for reservation also hindered the preparation of plans. In both circles complaint is made that the trained staff is inadequate.

Communication and buildings.

133. On new buildings Rs. 52,026, on 252 miles of new paths, roads and bridges Rs. 90,338, and on maintenance Rs. 44,559 were spent during the year. The main expenditure was on the conversion of the Kachugaon tramway for steam traffic and the provision of rolling stock for it at a cost of Rs. 43,821. In Lakhimpur Rs. 19,000 were spent on opening out areas leased to a company, which unfortunately went into liquidation during the year. Road making progressed well on the whole and proved remunerative, but lack of funds and staff for the construction of more expensive roads and bridges has resulted in the exhaustion of small accessible areas, while the bulk of the timber remains untouched. A further sum of Rs. 2,700 was spent on the Kulsi river *bund*, but the attempt to close the channel was not successful.

Forest offences and protection.

134. Forty-one cases were pending from the previous year and 656 new cases were reported. In 18 cases offenders were not detected and in 183 cases brought to court there were 125 convictions and 21 acquittals.

The area specially protected from fire rose from 1,099 to 1,137 square miles, at a cost of Rs. 7,217. Of this area 14½ square miles were burned, all the fires occurring in the Western Circle. Efforts were made to protect partially about 293 square miles in Goalpara at a cost of Rs. 1,221, but fire destroyed 14·8 per cent. of this area.

There was no alteration in the area open for grazing, but, in order to check the immigration of cattle into the province, it was decided to raise the fees to Rs. 8 per buffalo and Re. 1 per cow in the Assam Valley.

Rubber.

135. The Charduar rubber plantation was extended by 50 acres and the training of aerial roots to obtain more surface for tapping was continued here and in the Kulsi plantation. In the latter trees are dying in places owing to the failure of the *bund* to prevent flooding.

At Kulsi 780 trees were tapped and yielded 2·18 lbs. per tree, and at Charduar the average for 3,732 trees was 2·4 lbs., the cost being respectively Re. 0-8-1½ and Re. 0-7-8 per lb. 10,588 lbs. of cleaned rubber were despatched and sold in London at rates of Re. 1-9-9 and Re. 1-11-3 respectively.

Planting out of rubber and *ajhar* seedlings in the Dibrugarh division was continued.

Sylviculture.

136. *Cham* seeded well in Cachar and the *muli* bamboo has established itself again. *Sâl* seeding was poor in Goalpara and Darrang, but fair elsewhere. Climber cutting and, in Goalpara and Nowgong, burning were carried out, but the latter process did not prove successful owing to early rains and lack of funds for cutting undergrowth. Transplantation of *simal* also gave unsatisfactory results owing to the rapid growth of grass and climbers, but a promising experiment was made in the Bibru reserve, in parts of which Miri villagers were allowed to *jhum* on condition that they establish *simal* plants in their *jhums*.

General.

137. The failure of the Naharkatiya Company resulted in a serious loss to Government as much money had been spent on opening out the forests leased to the Company.

Further experiments were made to test the possibility of converting various kinds of timber into railway sleepers and advantage was taken of the botanical survey, which is being made by a special officer, to revise and extend the list of reserved trees.

Timber for tea boxes was scarce, and, in Cachar, where many logs were washed away by floods, the Lakhipur mills had to be closed temporarily. In order to enable full advantage to be taken of the concession the period during which timber for tea boxes may be had free of royalty was extended to January 1st, 1915.

The working of elephant *mahals* was modified to ensure rest from *Khedda* operations for 8 out of 10 years in each *mahal*.

The work of the subordinate establishment was not satisfactory and out of a total of 299 guards and peons there were 57 casualties, of which 48 were due to dismissal, discharge or resignation.

Forest villages.

138. Two new villages were established in Kamrup and Darrang and one village in Cachar was abandoned by its inhabitants.

Finance.

139. Information under this head is included in Chapter V—"Revenue and Finance."

Gross receipts fell from Rs. 11,33,228 to Rs. 10,92,878 and expenditure increased from Rs. 8,13,671 to Rs. 9,16,657. The decline in receipts was confined to the Western Circle and was due mainly to the closing of the elephant *mahals* in Nowgong and Kamrup, to the sale of rubber in London instead of Calcutta, whereby higher prices were obtained but the money was not realised in time for inclusion in the year's revenue, and to temporary interference with timber extraction by the conversion for steam traffic of the Kachugaon tramway. The increase in expenditure is attributed mainly to the conversion of this tramway, to expenditure on and losses in connection with the leased forests in Lakhimpur and to the entertainment of a Special Settlement Officer in Sylhet.

SECTION 5.—Manufacture and Mines.

Tea.

140. The number of gardens increased from 746 to 752 and the acreage under tea rose from 361,003 to 367,549 acres, which represented about 29 per cent. of the total area of plantations. Of the area under tea 94 per cent. was plucked and yielded 199,721,950, lbs. of manufactured tea, an increase of ·46 per cent. on the outturn of the previous year, though the outturn of green tea fell from 977,523 to 468,858 lbs. The permanent labour force increased by 13,030, while the temporary force decreased by 134 persons.

Weather.

141. In the Assam Valley weather conditions were favourable on the whole, but in the Surma Valley damage was done in Cachar by hailstorms in April, and in June and July low-lying gardens throughout the valley suffered severely from floods.

Prices.

142. Prices were favourable, Surma Valley tea advancing about 13 per cent. over the figures for the previous year and tea from the Assam Valley advancing 5·5 per cent, in London and 8·8 per cent. in Calcutta. Tea seed, however, fetched lower prices and exports fell from 15,341 to 7,671 maunds.

Minerals.

143. Five prospecting licenses were issued during the year, one for coal, two for gold and allied minerals, one for tin and wolfram and one for oil.

The output of the coalmines in Lakhimpur fell from 273,387 to 270,428 tons in 1913; and, in the revenue year, the amount realised as royalty fell from Rs. 43,414 in 1912-13 to Rs. 33,914. In the Khasi and Jaintia Hills the output of coal also fell from 545 to 498 tons and no coal was extracted from the new mine in the Naga Hills. The oil wells in Lakhimpur however increased their output to 4,688,628 gallons and the amount of royalty realised rose to Rs. 25,497.

In the Khasi and Jaintia Hills 80,412 tons and in the Manipur State 115½ tons of limestone were quarried. No corundum was extracted during the year.

SECTION 6.—Factories.

144. Fifteen factories were working during the year, one saw mill at work in 1913 having been closed. The factories were classified as follows:—

Factories.	Districts.	Number.
Printing Presses... ...	Khasi and Jaintia Hills	2
Railway workshops ...	Lakhimpur, Nowgong and Sibsagar ...	3
Colliery „ ...	Lakhimpur	1
Petroleum Refinery ...	Lakhimpur	1
Pottery	Lakhimpur	1
Saw mills	Lakhimpur (4), Cachar, Sylhet and Darrang	7
	Total	15

The average daily number of workers fell from 2,901 in 1913 to 2,822. Adult males decreased by 131, but adult females increased by 23 and children by 29. With the exception of the saw mills in Cachar and Darrang and of one factory in Lakhimpur all the factories were inspected once during the year. The Chief Inspector makes no adverse comments on any of the factories in the province, no breaches of the law were reported and no prosecutions were undertaken. The number of accidents rose from 4 to 9, of which 8 were minor and 1 was serious.

SECTION 7.—Maritime Trade.

Nil.

SECTION 8.—Rail and River-borne trade.

[*See* Report on the trade of Assam carried by rail and river during the year 1913-14.]

General.

145. Climatic conditions on the whole were not favourable to cultivation. In the Surma Valley floods caused serious damage to rice and jute and the weather was not favourable to spring rice and oilseed crops in the Assam Valley. Imports rose from 6,439,133 maunds in 1912-13 to 9,658,996 maunds, valued at Rs. 7,62,47,032, and exports, while diminishing in quantity from 13,024,136 maunds to 12,778,352 maunds, rose in value to Rs. 13,56,97,456. The value of the total trade between Assam and other provinces rose from Rs. 18,86,22,669 in 1912-13 to Rs. 21,19,44,488, of which 58·5 per cent. was with Bengal, 35·5 per cent. with Calcutta and 5·1 per cent. with Bihar and Orissa.

Principal imports and exports.

146. The principal imports were manufactured cotton, grain and pulse, iron and steel, and luxuries including apparel, provisions, spices, sugar, tobacco and liquor. The following table shows the value of these imports for the whole province and for each of the three trade blocks for which there is separate registration :—

	Manufactured cotton. Lakhs of rupees.	Grain and pulse. Lakhs of rupees.	Iron and steel. Lakhs of rupees.	Luxuries. Lakhs of rupees.	Total. Lakhs of rupees.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Upper Assam	44·45	35·63	66·05	29·07	175·20
Lower Assam	48·45	20·36	20·03	33·26	122·10
Surma Valley	84·49	59·84	50·47	73·02	267·82
Provincial total ...	177·39	115·83	136·55	135·35	565·12

The principal exports were tea, jute and rice. The following table shows the value of these exports for the whole province and for each trade block.

	Tea. Lakhs of rupees.	Jute. Lakhs of rupees.	Rice. Lakhs of rupees.	Total. Lakhs of rupees.
1	2	3	4	5
Upper Assam	485·32	9·39	·51	495·22
Lower Assam	72·72	100·25	36·18	209·15
Surma Valley	395.07	12·89	77·54	485·19
Provincial total	953·11	122·53	114·23	1,189·56

The percentage of the trade of each block in these principal imports and exports and in their total is shown in the following table :—

	Principal imports.	Principal exports.	Total.
1	2	3	4
Upper Assam	31·02	41·63	38·22
Lower Assam	21·60	17·58	18·89
Surma Valley	47·38	40·79	42·89
Total	100·00	100·00	100·00

The value of each of these principal imports and exports was greater than in the previous year, the most marked increase being in imported grain and pulse, which rose from a value of Rs. 51·1 lakhs to Rs. 115·8 lakhs. Damage done by floods to rice crops in the Surma Valley was mainly responsible for this great increase. Exports of rice indeed increased in value and came mainly from the Surma Valley, but the increase was due to a rise in price from an average of Rs. 3-13-0 in 1912-13 to an average of Rs. 6 in 1913-14, and there was an actual decrease of exported rice in the husk from 4,852,396 maunds to 3,993,924 maunds.

147. There was a marked increase in the value of imported coal and of exported raw silk from Rs. 2·5 lakhs and Rs. 2·9 lakhs to Rs. 11·5 and Rs. 13·0 lakhs respectively. Imports of kerosine oil, mustard oil and salt and exports of raw cotton, hides and timber also showed an increase in value varying from Rs. 1·5 lakhs in the case of salt to Rs. 9·4 lakhs in the case of timber. Other imports and exports.

SECTION 9.—Frontier Trade.

148. The registration of frontier trade was placed under the control of Deputy Commissioners and the Political Officer at Sadiya with effect from May 1913, and from April 1913 returns of imports of rubber and timber were discontinued. Registration.

149. The total value of frontier trade rose from Rs. 26,89,124 in 1912-13 to Rs. 34,87,814, of which imports accounted for Rs. 18,72,865. Trade.

150. Imports, mainly of woollen goods, spices and musk, were valued at Rs. 17,71,159 and exports, mainly of silk and cotton goods, were valued at Rs. 15,62,944. The increase in trade is attributed to improved registration, to the maintenance of the Kokalabari station throughout the year and to a visit paid to Dewangiri by the Maharaja of Bhutan, for whom large purchases were made. Bhutan.

151. Imports were valued at Rs. 35,775 and exports at Rs. 6,158. The small attendance of Towang Bhutias and the continued decrease in the number of ponies brought for sale account for the fall in the value of imports. Towang and Charduar Bhutias.

152. Imports fell from Rs. 25,789 to Rs. 2,843 and exports rose from Rs. 857 to Rs. 2,742. The discontinuance of returns of imported rubber accounts almost entirely for the fall in the value of imports, but the number of Akas and Daflas visiting the plains decreased, possibly owing to the presence of the Survey Party in these hills. Akas and Daflas.

153. Imports decreased from Rs. 1,72,100 to Rs. 63,088, but exports rose from Rs. 12,537 to Rs. 43,105. The fall in imports is accounted for by the discontinuance of registration of rubber and timber and a decline in the boom of Mishmi dying materials. Opium alone was responsible for the increase in the value of exports. Abors and Mishmi, etc.

154. No tax or impost is known to be levied on exports by any of the frontier tribes, but a duty of 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, in addition to royalty, is levied on musk, wax, rubber and *Mishmi tita* at Sadiya and on rubber at Jaypur and Margherita. General.

SECTION 10.—Public Works.

155. During the year the headquarters of the Assam Circle of Superintendence were moved from Shillong to Jorhat, and Mr. Duguid, Temporary Engineer, was attached to the office of the Chief Engineer for the preparation and supervision of sanitary projects.

156. Quarters for a Sergeant Instructor of the Surma Valley Light Horse were begun at Dullabcherra and work was in progress on the construction of a rifle range at Makum junction and the strengthening of the armoury at Tezpur for the Assam Valley Light Horse. Imperial works.

The telegraph office at Gauhati and the post and telegraph office at Barpeta were completed, a house was acquired for the office and residenceof the Superintendent, Railway Mail Service, at Silchar and materials were collected for a new post office at Shamshernagar.

157. Expenditure on original works amounted to Rs. 9,27,847 and on repairs to Rs. 1,89,188. Provincial works.

158. Improvements at a cost of Rs. 14,405 were made to Government House at Shillong and to the Chateau at Upper Shillong. Official residences.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Temporary residences were made for four officers at Sadiya and for an Assistant Surgeon at Mokokchang. A residence was built for a Sub-Deputy Collector at Sidli and out-houses for the Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong and the Subdivisional Officer of Hailakandi, and the residence of the Subdivisional Officer at Lungleh was reconstructed.

Work was also in progress on residences for the Superintending Engineer, Deputy Conservator of Forests, and three officers of the Provincial Service at Jorhat; for the Settlement Officer, the sisters of the Lady Minto Nursing Association, the Inspector of Schools and the Headmaster of the High School at Silchar, for an Additional District Magistrate at Sylhet, an Assistant Superintendent of Police at Habiganj and an Assistant Conservator of Forests at Jaipur.

Administration.

159. Quarters were built for political clerks at Lungleh and Sadiya and work was in progress on a settlement office at Silchar, an office for a Sub-Deputy Collector at Jorhat and on improvements to the treasury buildings at Habiganj, Hailakandi and Tezpur.

Law and Justice.

160. A mortuary was built at Habiganj and others were under construction a Moran, Dhakuakhana, Bordolani and Maulvi Bazar, the court house at Haflong was being constructed and that at Karimganj was being extended.

Circuithouses.

161. At Haflong and Cherrapunji circuit-houses were in process of construction and improvements were made to those at Sylhet, Silchar, Dibrugarh, Habiganj, Maulvi Bazar, Gauhati, Goalpara, Dhubri, Sibsagar and Tezpur.

Education.

162. New buildings, quarters and hostels were built for the Cotton College additional accommodation was provided at the Pine Mount School at Shillong and the high schools at Maulvi Bazar, Tezpur and Jorhat, and school hostels were constructed at North Lakhimpur, Kakojan and Sylhet.

Preparations were made for the new buildings of the Murarichand College at Sylhet, progress was made with the provision of increased accommodation for the girls' schools at Gauhati and Sylhet, for the collegiate school at Gauhati and for the school at Jorhat, and the construction of a new school at Aijal and of a hospital for the Cotton College was undertaken.

Jails.

163. Various improvements were made and additional buildings constructed at the jails at Silchar, Kohima, Tezpur, and Dibrugarh. Work was in progress for the provision of masonry enclosure walls and other improvements to the Dibrugarh, Nowgong, Kohima, North Lakhimpur, Golaghat and Mangaldai jails and a new jail was under construction at Habiganj.

Police.

164. Police buildings or offices were constructed at Gowainghat, Cherrapunji, Sorbhog, Udarband, Gauhati and Dibrugarh. A hospital at Dhubri and a ward at Kohima were also completed and progress was made with buildings at various other places and with the temporary lines for the Military Police at Sadiya.

Medical.

165. Improvements were made to the dispensaries at Kohima, Wokha and Mokokchang. At Dibrugarh additional accommodation and an X-ray installation were provided at the Berry White Medical School and an office was constructed for the Civil Surgeon. Improvements to the Haflong hospital were in progress and preparations were made for building a central lunatic asylum at Tezpur.

Other Departments.

166. Various other works, mainly the building of offices and quarters, were completed or in progress for the Excise, Registration, Agricultural, and Public Works Departments, the most noteworthy of which were the various buildings required at Jorhat by the removal thither of the headquarters of the Superintending Engineer, Assam Circle. An explosives magazine was also under construction at Chhatak.

Communications.

167. The outlay on original works amounted to Rs. 25,55,653, of which Rs. 1,33,792 were spent on bridges, Rs. 13,72,231 on new cart roads, Rs. 29,279 on bridle paths, Rs. 86,895 on dâk and inspection bungalows and Rs. 9,32,273 on improvements to existing roads.

The major portion of these sums was spent on extending, improving, metalling, and providing with masonry or iron bridges the Lohit Valley, Kobo-Pasighat and Sadiya-Nizamghat roads on the North-East Frontier (Rs. 15,26,566), the Dimapur-Manipur road (Rs. 4,15,913), the Assam Trunk road (Rs. 2,30,972) and the North Trunk road (Rs. 1,06,486).

Eight new inspection bungalows were constructed on the old and new Sema roads in the Naga Hills, new bungalows were under construction at Margherita, Silghat Damalgiri, Bokakhat, Gabru and Panigaon and improvements to 9 other bungalows were in progress.

Expenditure on repairs, including the maintenance of dâk and inspection bungalows, amounted to Rs. 10,76,920 and included 400·46 miles of metalled and 3,712·18 miles of unmetalled roads and bridle paths.

Miscellaneous.

168. Various improvements to the Haflong station, a pipe water-supply installation at Tura and work for protecting the river bank at Dibrugarh were completed. Improvements to the *maidans* at Silchar and Jorhat were in progress and preparations were made for improvements to the town of Dimapur.

Contribution works.

169. The improvements to the Gauhati water-works specified in last year's report, with the exception of meters on private connections, were completed during the year, and Rs. 19,054, of which the Municipality contributed Rs. 15,020, were spent on maintenance charges.

The substitution of galvanised for black iron pipes at Haflong and the construction of water-works at Jorhat were nearly completed.

The building of an operation room for the Dhubri hospital and work on the dispensaries at Tezpur, Silchar, Dibrugarh, and Gauhati were in progress during the year.

A madrasa was under construction at Goalpara, the municipal section of the Peterganj road at Sylhet was metalled, a screw-pile bridge at Hailakandi was nearly completed and spurs were made to protect the banks of the Kullong river in Nowgong.

The estimated cost of projects made over to the department by Local Boards up to the end of the year was Rs. 13,23,599 and expenditure during the year on these projects amounted to Rs. 10,41,827.

Minor Works and Navigation.

170. Snags were removed from the Ranganadi, Desang, Barak, and Dhaleswar rivers and from the Jita and Kaya *Khals*. The mouths of the Dihing and Desang rivers were improved by bandalling, the removal of rocky shoals from the Kullong river was in progress and the dredging of its mouth was completed.

Railways and Tramways.

171. During the year an addition of 24·32 miles, the branch line of the Eastern Bengal State Railway from Rangia in Kamrup to Tangla in Darrang, was opened to traffic and brought the open mileage for the province to 914·07 miles. Particulars of the railways are given in the following table :—

Railway.	Gauge.	Open mileage.	Gross capital outlay, including suspense account.	Gross earnings.	Working expenses.	Nett earnings.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Ft. inches.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Eastern Bengal State Railway (Assam Portion).	3 3½	185·67	...	...	...	...
Jorhat Provincial State Railway ...	2	32·50	10,64,858	1,30,085	90,239	39,846
Assam-Bengal Railway	3 3½	584·28	...	...	...	...
Dibru-Sadiya Railway	3 3½	91·52	1,08,20,066	13,54,970	7,51,810	6,03,160
Ledo-Tikak-Margherita Colliery Railway.	...	...	16,94,069	93,069	51,247	41,822
Tezpur-Balipara Railway	2 6	20·10	4,87,240	1,34,638	94,149	40,489

The Kusiara-Sylhet section of the Kulaura-Sylhet branch line of the Assam Bengal Railway was under construction during the year, but the extensive damage done by the floods of July 1913 will probably delay its opening till the middle of 1915. The first section of the Dwara-Tharia Railway was completed and passed for goods traffic shortly after the close of the year, but has since been damaged seriously by floods. Alternative proposals to construct the Chaparmukh-Nowgong-Silghat railway, on a 2′ 6″ or a metre gauge, were still under the consideration of the Railway Board at the close of the year.

A realignment of the first 5 miles of the Sealtek-Lalabazar Light Railway project on a 2′ gauge was surveyed during the year and surveys were also in progress for the Sylhet-Thariaghat railway, 22 miles, 3′ 3⅜″ gauge, for a Silchar-Tikalpur line 14 miles, 2′ gauge, and for a Silchar-Dwarband line, 22 miles, 2′ gauge. The estimate for a survey of a revised alignment of the last named project by Messrs. Martin & Co. has since been submitted to the Railway Board.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Assistance rendered to Local Bodies.

172. Projects of an aggregate value of Rs. 9,72,524 were prepared for local bodies in divisional offices, and, of these, projects costing Rs 1,66,615 were made over to the department for execution. Estimates for the expenditure of Rs. 5,87,194 on other works were examined and checked on behalf of local bodies and their works were inspected regularly by Executive Engineers. The accounts of these bodies were also audited and compiled in divisional offices.

Cost of Establishment.

173. The expenditure of the department, under all heads, aggregated Rs. 64,03,582, of which Rs. 7,23,722 and Rs. 63,536, or 12·85 per cent. of the outlay on work carried out by the department, were actually spent on establishment and tools and plant, respectively. The total revenue of the department amounted to Rs. 93,349, of which rents of buildings accounted for Rs. 51,096.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

A.—GROSS REVENUE.

179. The revenue and expenditure of the Province for the financial year 1913-14 are shown in the following tables:—

Receipts during 1913-14.

Heads of Account.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A.—Principal Heads of Revenue—			
I.—Land Revenue	34,646	78,51,912	78,86,558
II.—Opium	5,41,552	...	5,41,552
III.—Salt	897	...	897
IV.—Stamps	6,99,599	6,99,598	13,99,197
V.—Excise	...	52,58,690	52,58,690
VI.—Provincial Rates	...	11,782	11,782
VII.—Customs	...	...	...
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	2,13,534	2,13,533	4,27,067
IX.—Forest	...	10,97,969	10,97,969
X.—Registration...	...	1,08,711	1,08,711
XI.—Tribute	50,100	...	50,100
Total A.—Principal Heads of Revenue ...	15,40,328	1,52,42,195	1,67,82,523
B.—Interest—			
XII.—Interest	...	24,239	24,239
D.—Receipts by Civil Departments—			
XVI—A.—Law and Justice—Courts ...	...	1,25,675	1,25,675
XVIB.—Law and Justice—Jails ...	...	91,622	91,622
XVII.—Police	...	1,22,398	1,22,398
XVIII.—Ports and Pilotage	...	...	...
XIX.—Education	...	1,34,639	1,34,639
XX.—Medical	...	23,920	23,920
XXI.—Scientific and Minor Departments ...	...	18,418	18,418
Total D.—Receipts by Civil Departments ...	...	5,16,672	5,16,672
E.—Miscellaneous Civil Receipts—			
XXII.—Receipts in aid of superannuation ...	20,401	4,391	24,792
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing	386	7,633	8,019
XXV.—Miscellaneous	7,455	46,657	54,112
Total E.—Miscellaneous Civil Receipts ...	28,242	58,681	86,923
H.—Railways—			
XXVI.—State Railways (Gross receipts) ...	...	1,23,804	1,23,804
Deduct working expenses ...	...	89,498	89,498
Nett Railway Receipts ...	...	34,306	34,306
J.—Irrigation—			
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation ...	...	...	...
K.—Other Public Works—			
XXXI.—Civil Works (Civil)	...	68,754	68,754
Ditto (Public Works) ...	1,740	81,853	83,593
Total K.—Other Public Works ...	1,740	1,50,607	1,52,347
L.—Military Receipts—			
XXXIV.—Military Works	7,301	...	7,301
Grand Total	15,77,611	1,60,26,700	1,76,04,311

Expenditure during 1913-14.

Heads of Accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A.—Direct demands on the revenue—			
1. Refunds and drawbacks	12,736	20,197	32,573
2. Assignments and compensation	31,330	16,319	47,649
3. Land revenue	...	14,99,265	14,99,265
5. Salt	903	...	903
6. Stamps	29,692	29,691	59,383
7. Excise	...	1,14,400	1,14,400
8. Provincial rates	...	...	...
9. Customs	...	...	...
10. Assessed taxes	2,331	2,332	4,663
11. Forests	...	9,10,240	9,10,240
12. Registration	...	58,611	58,611
Total A.—Direct demands on the revenue ...	76,632	26,51,055	27,27,687
B.—Interest—			
13. Interest on ordinary debt	...	33,759	33,759
14. Interest on other obligations { Civil ...	19,968	...	19,968
14. Interest on other obligations { Public Works...	989	...	989
Total B.—Interest	20,957	33,759	54,716
D.—Salaries and expenses of Civil Departments—			
18. General Administration	1,40,532	5,83,597	7,24,129
19A. Law and Justice (Courts)	...	9,33,847	9,33,847
19B. Law and Justice (Jails)	...	2,72,177	2,72,177
20. Police	...	23,87,928	23,87,928
21. Ports and pilotage	...	60,902	60,902
22. Education	...	12,15,892	12,15,892
23. Ecclesiastical	16,765	...	16,765
24. Medical...	...	6,77,255	6,77,255
25. Political	...	16,15,495	16,15,495
26. Scientific and other Minor Departments ...	10,283	2,76,058	2,86,341
Total D.—Salaries and expenses of Civil Departments	1,67,580	80,23,151	81,00,731

Expenditure during 1913-14—concld.

Heads of Account.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
E.—Miscellaneous—			
27. Territorial and Political Pensions ...	4,511	...	4,511
28. Civil furlough & absentee allowance ...	...	...	...
29. Superannuation allowances, etc. ...	...	2,83,152	2,83,152
30. Stationery and Printing	613	1,65,328	1,65,941
32. Miscellaneous	16,071	3,82,187	3,98,258
Total E.—Miscellaneous	21,195	8,30,667	8,51,862
F.—Famine Relief and Insurance	...	...	...
H.—Railway Revenue and Accounts			
40. Subsidised Companies	...	5,112	5,112
41. Miscellaneous Railway Expenditure ...	...	—465	—465
Total H.—Railways	...	4,647	4,647
I.—Irrigation—			
43. Minor Works and Navigation—Public Works.	...	1,15,211	1,15,211
K.—Other Public Works—			
44. Construction of Railways	...	21,213	21,213
45. Civil Works, Civil	...	9,77,003	9,77,003
Ditto, Public Works	42,078	56,40,265	56,82,343
Total K.—Other Public Works ...	42,078	66,38,481	66,80,559
L.—Military Works Services—			
47.—Military Works (Ordinary)	54,145	...	54,145
Grand Total	3,82,587	1,82,96,971	1,86,79,558

132964

Abstract of Receipts and Expenditure during 1913-14.

	1912-13.			1913-14.			1913-14 compared with 1912-13.			
							Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Difference.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Difference.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Principal Heads of Revenue	1,61,69,897	25,18,148	+1,36,51,754	1,67,82,523	27,37,687	+1,40,54,833	6,12,626	...	2,09,544	...
II.—Departmental Heads:—										
Interest	13,336	43,686	−30,350	24,239	54,716	−30,477	10,903	...	11,030	...
Civil Departments ...	4,57,244	66,80,407	−62,23,163	5,16,672	81,90,731	−76,74,059	59,428	...	15,10,324	...
Miscellaneous	1,13,428	7,97,434	−6,84,006	86,923	8,51,862	−7,64,939	...	26,505	54,428	...
Famine Relief and Insurance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Railway Revenue Accounts	38,043	9,474	+28,569	34,306	4,647	+29,659	...	3,737	...	4,827
Irrigation	...	66,634	−66,634	...	1,15,211	−1,15,211	...	...	48,577	...
Other Public Works ...	1,42,704	44,40,889	−42,98,185	1,53,347	66,80,559	−65,28,212	9,643	...	22,39,670	...
Military Works Services ...	7,850	47,739	−39,889	7,301	54,145	−46,844	...	549	6,406	...
Total, Departmental Heads...	7,73,605	1,20,86,263	−1,13,13,658	8,21,788	1,59,51,871	−1,51,30,083	79,974	30,791	38,70,435	4,827
Grand Total	1,69,42,502	1,46,04,406	+22,38,096	1,76,04,311	1,86,79,558	− 10,75,247	6,92,600	30,791	40,79,979	4,827

75. The expenditure of the year compares as follows with that of 1912-13 and with the budget estimate for 1913-14:—

3.—Land Revenue.

Minor heads.	1913-14 compared with 1912-13.		1913-14 compared with budget estimate.	
	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Charges of District Administration ...	15,000	...	...	16,000
2. Management of Government estates ...	3,000	...	...	...
3. Charges on account of Land Revenue Collections	20,000	...	...	16,000
4. Charges on account of Fishery Collection ...	...	...	...	...
5. Survey and Settlement	57,000	...	14,000	...
6. Land Records	13,000	...	4,000	...
7. Allowances to District and Village Officers ...	...	...	...	...

Compensation for dearness of provisions, owing to the high price of food grains throughout the year, and larger outlay on travelling allowances and rewards account for the increase on the figures for 1912-13 under the first and sixth heads, and the saving on the budget estimate is due to the absence on leave of senior officers and smaller outlay on law charges in Sylhet. The increase under the fifth head is due to the commencement of settlement proceedings in Cachar and the absence, at present,

of any transfer of charges for the Assam Traverse Party to the Bengal and India books. Payment was made in 1913-14 of commission on collections of land revenue made in 1912-13, but no allowance was made in the budget for similar arrears of 1913-14 being paid in 1914-15, as in fact has happened.

176. The details by minor heads of actual and estimated expenditure are shown in round figures in the following table:—

18.—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Minor heads.	Actuals, 1912-13.	Budget, 1913-14.	Actuals, 1913-14.	Comparison with actuals, 1912-13.	Comparison with budget, 1913-14.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Salary of Chief Commissioner	51,000	56,000	56,000	+5,000	...
2. Staff and household of Chief Commissioner	44,000	34,000	37,000	−7,000	+3,000
3. Expenditure from contract allowance, etc. ...	30,000	14,000	24,000	−6,000	+10,000
4. Tour expenses	6,000	8,000	5,000	−1,000	−3,000
5. Legislative Council	14,000	5,000	11,000	−3,000	+6,000
6. Civil Secretariat	2,22,000	2,02,000	2,09,000	−13,000	+7,000
7. Board of Revenue	4,000	...	...	−4,000	...
8. Commissioners	1,39,000	1,40,000	1,28,000	−11,000	−12,000
9. Civil offices of Account and Audit—					
(*a*) Imperial	1,49,000	1,32,000	1,40,000	−9,000	+8,000
(*b*) Provincial	14,000	21,000	23,000	+9,000	+2,000
10. Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Excise, etc.	38,000	39,000	39,000	+1,000	...
11. Director of Land Records and Agriculture	43,000	43,000	52,000	+9,000	+9,000
Total	7,54,000	6,94,000	7,24,000	−30,000	+30,000

The excess of the actuals of 1912-13 over those for 1913-14 was due mainly to charges in the former year on account of the move from Dacca and to heavy initial outlay on furniture and equipment. The budget estimate of 1913-14 fell short of actual expenditure under the heads Staff and Household, Civil Offices of Account and Audit, Inspector General of Registration and Director of Land Records, mainly owing to increased charges for leave, acting and travelling allowances. Under the heads of contract allowances and Legislative Council there was some payment for liabilities incurred in the previous year and the budget provision proved to be inadequate. The absence on leave of one Commissioner and a failure to utilise a provision for purchase of elephants accounted for the savings under the head "Commissioners".

B.—IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE.

SECTION 1.—Land Revenue.

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1913-14.]

177. The total ordinary land revenue demand rose from Rs. 74,55,474 to Rs. 75,11,738, of which Rs. 72,28,221, or 96·22 per cent., were collected and Rs. 7,090 were remitted. The demand on account of miscellaneous land revenue rose from Rs. 6,75,312 to Rs. 7,14,869. Rupees 3,861 were remitted and Rs. 7,13,720, or 99·84 per cent. of the demand, were collected. Land revenue.

SECTION 2.—Sources of revenue other than land revenue.

Salt. 178. The bonded warehouse at Balaganj was closed from the beginning of the year and only that at Ajmiriganj was working. Imports amounted to 43,000 maunds and clearances to 42,406 maunds, the figures for the previous year being 46,606 and 58,440, respectively. The decrease is attributed to the closing of the *Gola* at Balaganj. The wholesale price at Silchar fell by one anna to Re. 1-15-0 per maund, but the retail rate remained steady at Rs. 2-4 per maund. Nett revenue fell from Rs. 55,403 to Rs. 41,983.

Excise. Receipts and charges. 179. The revenue demand rose from Rs. 47,62,593 in 1912-13 to Rs. 52,51,867, an increase of 10·2 per cent. The increase was most marked in the Assam Valley, and was due mainly to license fees which rose by 19·5 per cent. to Rs. 18,41,479, duty advancing only 5·7 per cent. to Rs. 33,79,862. Of the demand recoverable during the year, 99·92 per cent. was realised, Rs. 3,398 were remitted and Rs. 485 remained outstanding.

The expenditure of the department rose from Rs. 1,14,609 to Rs. 1,15,385, but the ratio of expenditure to receipts fell from 2·36 to 2·19 per cent.

Country spirit. 180. Consumption of country spirit rose by 5·8 per cent. and receipts realised Rs. 15,31,667. The increase was most marked in Kamrup, Goalpara and Lakhimpur and is attributed mainly to increased prosperity and to the growth of the immigrant population. The duty will be raised further with effect from the 1st April 1915 with the object of checking consumption. The incidence of taxation per head of population remained highest in the districts of Lakhimpur (Re. 1-3-2), Sibsagar (Re. 0-9-9) and Cachar (Re. 0-5-4). The outstill system continued to be used in North Lakhimpur and in the hill districts.

The Jorhat distillery was improved and storage wastage was reduced by the use of Pfaudler glass tanks. Samples of spirits were analysed regularly and pronounced to be of excellent quality and free from deleterious substances.

Ganja. 181. Although the number of retail licenses was reduced from 245 to 240, consumption of *ganja* rose from 847 to 898 maunds, the increase being most marked in Sylhet, Sibsagar and Kamrup, and revenue rose from Rs. 6,87,193 to Rs. 7,89,507.

Opium. 182. Consumption of opium increased by 2·4 per cent. and revenue rose from 27,38,307 to Rs. 29,17,470. The increase is ascribed to greater prosperity, except in the district of Cachar, where it is attributed to the operations of smugglers from Chittagong. Three such cases were detected in this district and resulted in convictions. An additional Sub-Inspector of Excise is being appointed and careful watch will be kept.

General. 183. The committee appointed in 1912 to consider the question of opium and *ganja* consumption made their report and, with effect from April 1st, 1914, the treasury price of opium in certain districts and the rate of duty on *ganja* have been raised and the limit of private possession lowered. The minimum age for purchase has also been raised to 20 years and the number of retail opium shops has been reduced. The hours of closing for excise shops has been advanced from 8 P.M. in winter and 9 P.M. in summer to 6 P.M. and 7 P.M., respectively, and Local Boards will be used as advisory bodies in connection with rural shops.

Negotiations with the Hill Tippera Darbar in regard to excise arrangements on their border were not brought to a satisfactory conclusion during the year, but efforts are still being made to effect a settlement.

Stamps. 184. Receipts under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts rose from Rs. 12,80,991 in the previous year to Rs. 13,38,222 and charges from Rs. 36,720 to Rs. 39,760. Non-judicial stamps yielded the greater part of the increase, namely, Rs. 40,168, and judicial stamps yielded Rs. 17,063. This reverses the ratio of increase which was observed between these two classes of stamps in 1912-13, and is ascribed to an increase in monetary transactions with and between immigrants in the Assam Valley, and, in the Surma Valley, to expansion of trade and higher prices of food grains owing to damage by floods. The number of stamp vendors rose from 335 to 351, of whom 213 were in the Sylhet district, and the discount allowed to them rose from Rs. 26,537 to Rs. 29,311. Stamp prosecutions fell from 31 in 1912-13 to 21, and the amount of fines imposed from Rs. 318 to Rs. 84.

Applications for probate and letters of administration were made to Collectors in 52 cases and in 50 of these cases inquiries were instituted.

185. Income-tax receipts rose from Rs. 4,02,463 in 1912-13 to Rs. 4,27,968, yielding a normal increase of 6·4 per cent. The number of assessees and the final demand for the year, excluding the tax on salaries of Government officials and on interest from securities, were 4,949 and Rs. 3,48,039, respectively. Income-tax.

SECTION 3.—Provincial Finance.

186.

Year.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1912-13	41,96,000	1,78,07,219	1,41,96,725	78,06,494
1913-14	78,06,494	1,60,26,700	1,82,96,971	55,36,223

The budget estimate for 1913-14 was as follows :—Opening balance Rs. 79,51,000, receipts Rs. 1,42,49,000, expenditure Rs. 1,62,43,000. Closing balance Rs. 59,57,000. The excess of Rs. 17,77,700 over the estimated receipts was made up by an increase in ordinary revenue of Rs. 4,02,000 for which Excise, Land Revenue, Stamps, Education and Registration were mainly responsible, and by an adjustment of Rs. 14,65,000 spent for political purposes on the Lohit Valley Road. Against these sums, however, there was an assignment of Rs. 89,000 from Provincial to Imperial accounts for printing done by the Central Jail Press at Dacca. Receipts.

In addition to the original budget grant of Rs. 1,62,43,000 further grants aggregating Rs. 25,65,000 were obtained for provincial expenditure. The bulk of this sum was composed of grants of Rs. 14,65,000 for the Lohit Valley Road and of Rs. 8,04,000 for the improvement of water-supply and communications. Actual expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,82,97,000 and there was thus a saving on the grants of Rs. 5,11,000. Expenditure.

The opening balance of Rs. 78,06,494 included the following assignments given by the Government of India for special purposes :— Assignments.

	Rs.
Education	14,07,000
Agriculture	20,000
River Police	2,83,000
Discretionary purposes	8,00,000
Sanitation	3,30,000
Forest Administration	15,000
Development	20,00,000
Total	48,55,000

During the year further special assignments were given as follows :—

	Rs.
Education	3,63,000
Agriculture	75,000
Sanitation	50,000
Medical Relief	25,000
Total	5,13,000

Out of these assignments, aggregating Rs. 53,68,000, Rs. 16,75,000 were spent during the year and Rs. 36,93,000 remained as part of the closing balance.

SECTION 4.—Local Funds.

187. The following statements show the receipts and charges during the year of those Local Funds of which an account is submitted to Government :—

A

Statement showing the income, expenditure and balance of Local Boards in Assam during 1913-14.

Serial No.	Name of Local Board.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	Dibrugarh	53,425 12 6	2,84,587 3 5	2,88,012 15 11	2,22,015 13 11	65,997 2 0
2	North Lakhimpur	22,518 3 10	81,245 1 10	1,03,763 5 8	81,273 15 4	22,489 6 4
3	Sibsagar	38,160 10 0	1,59,613 11 11	1,97,774 5 11	1,54,370 14 2	43,403 7 9
4	Jorhat	22,299 0 0	1,52,064 15 5	1,74,363 15 5	1,26,270 0 6	48,093 14 11
5	Golaghat	12,606 0 0	1,74,126 4 4	1,86,732 4 4	1,46,888 7 6	39,843 12 10
6	Nowgong	23,251 10 0	1,46,960 9 10	1,70,212 3 10	1,27,976 13 8	42,235 6 2
7	Tezpur	32,921 3 7	1,66,510 13 10	1,96,432 1 5	1,67,807 0 10	31,625 0 7
8	Mangaldai	40,774 12 9	1,68,508 4 10	2,09,283 1 7	1,57,096 0 1	52,187 1 6
9	Gauhati	64,006 2 10	2,06,200 2 6	2,70,206 5 4	1,80,234 4 7	89,922 0 9
10	Barpeta	17,514 5 4	1,02,694 12 11	1,20,209 2 3	95,220 9 11	24,988 8 4 (a)
11	Dhubri	41,111 0 8	1,56,639 6 6	1,97,750 7 2	1,16,335 14 10	81,414 8 14 (a)
12	Goalpara	20,591 11 11	89,003 11 10	1,09,595 7 9	71,652 9 0	28,942 14 9 (a)
13	Silchar	33,754 1 9	2,32,461 7 1	2,66,215 8 10	2,03,626 8 8	62,589 0 7
14	Hailakandi	21,453 5 7	1,13,503 0 3	1,34,961 5 10	1,04,501 8 3	30,459 13 7
15	North Sylhet	9,154 14 1	1,74,504 12 9	1,83,659 10 10	1,62,732 14 11	20,926 11 11
16	Habiganj	51,385 10 0	1,98,529 9 10	2,49,915 3 10	1,92,699 10 6	57,215 9 4 (a)
17	Sunamganj	12,518 14 4	1,61,421 6 0	1,73,940 4 4	1,58,413 10 2	15,526 10 2
18	South Sylhet	69,588 14 2	2,05,795 14 2	2,75,384 12 4	2,37,066 4 8	38,318 7 8 (a)
19	Karimganj	22,347 4 9	1,97,963 11 2	2,20,310 15 11	1,99,033 14 1	21,277 1 10
	Total ...	6,09,388 10 1	31,13,335 0 5	37,22,723 10 6	29,14,266 15 2	8,08,456 11 4

(a) Acceptance certificate awaited.

B

Statement showing the income, expenditure and balance of Municipalities in Assam during 1913-14.

Serial No.	Name of Municipality.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payment.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	Silchar	83,790 6 1	37,113 5 4	1,20,903 11 5	39,349 4 11	81,554 6 6
2	Hailakandi	2,211 6 3	4,726 4 0	6,937 10 3	4,889 5 4	2,048 4 11 (a)
3	Tezpur	4,204 14 7	27,815 1 6	32,020 0 1	27,779 14 0	4,240 2 1 (a)
4	Dhubri	28,570 10 8	48,805 5 0	77,375 15 8	30,061 0 10	47,314 14 10
5	Goalpara	1,019 3 3	11,785 15 6	12,805 2 9	10,758 14 0	2,046 4 9 (a)
6	Barpeta	4,053 2 9	36,216 7 4	40,269 10 1	27,974 13 2	12,294 12 11
7	Gauhati	19,101 13 6	84,377 10 6	1,03,479 8 0	73,615 7 9	29,864 0 3 (a)
8	Shillong	17,344 3 8	78,725 14 8	96,070 2 4	84,227 1 7	11,843 0 9
9	Dibrugarh	6,577 14 11	55,331 6 10	61,909 5 9	45,080 9 6	16,823 12 3 (a)
10	Nowgong	281 1 1	20,276 11 10	20,557 12 11	17,019 0 5	3,538 12 6 (a)
11	Golaghat	23,467 5 1	13,351 2 10	36,818 7 11	31,012 14 0	5,805 9 11
12	Jorhat	2,096 9 7	28,193 13 11	30,290 7 6	27,585 9 6	2,704 14 0
13	Sibsagar	4,445 14 9	16,536 1 11	20,982 0 8	16,378 0 1	4,604 0 7 (a)
14	Nazira	6,489 9 6	4,353 9 0	10,843 2 6	2,913 7 2	7,929 11 4 (a)
15	Habiganj	5,330 1 4	7,495 6 10	12,825 8 2	6,038 7 6	6,787 0 8 (a)
16	Sylhet	12,446 15 11	37,215 5 2	49,662 5 1	35,601 14 6	14,060 6 7
17	Karimganj	...	8,958 4 3	8,958 4 3	7,856 13 7	1,101 6 8 (a)
18	Sunamganj	...	3,629 7 2	3,629 7 2	381 14 7	3,247 8 7 (a)
	Total ...	2,21,431 4 11	5,24,907 5 7	7,46,338 10 6	4,88,524 8 5	2,57,814 2 1

(a) Acceptance certificate awaited.

C

Statement showing the income, expenditure and balance of Town and Bazar Funds in Assam during 1913-14.

Serial No.	Name of Town Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	North Cachar Hills Bazar Fund ...	10,330 3 11	8,281 1 0	18,611 4 11	14,826 2 6	3,785 2 5
2	Mangaldai Town Fund ...	3,334 8 0	4,387 12 9	7,722 4 9	4,987 0 6	2,735 4 3
3	Jowai Bazar Town Fund ...	576 11 9	379 0 0	955 11 9	694 10 4	261 1 5
4	North Lakhimpur Town Fund ...	5,041 9 1	5,740 11 0	10,782 4 1	5,600 11 10	5,181 8 3
	Total ...	19,283 0 9	18,788 8 9	38,071 9 6	26,108 9 2	11,963 0 4

D

Statement showing the income, expenditure and balance of Cantonment Funds, Chaukidari Reward Funds and the Assam Williamson Education Fund during 1913-14.

Serial No.	Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
	I.—Cantonment Funds—					
1	Khasi and Jaintia Hills ...	2,493 12 6	12,128 11 1	14,622 7 7	13,216 3 11	1,406 3 8(a)
2	Lakhimpur	547 6 1	3,296 9 7	3,843 15 8	3,376 3 7	467 12 1
	Total ...	3,041 2 7	15,425 4 8	18,466 7 3	16,592 7 6	1,873 15 9
	II.—District Chaukidari Reward Fund—					
1	Cachar	1,792 10 6	651 13 3	2,444 7 9	1,955 0 0	489 7 9
2	Goalpara	10,502 12 1	708 11 6	11,211 7 7	619 7 0	10,592 0 7(a)
3	Sylhet	8,780 2 1	3,074 8 3	11,854 10 4	2,202 0 0	9,652 10 4
	Total ...	21,075 8 8	4,435 1 0	25,510 9 8	4,776 7 0	20,734 2 8
	III.—Assam Williamson Education Fund	14,552 10 0	3,920 10 8	18,473 4 8	2,202 11 9	16,270 8 11

(a) Acceptance certificate awaited.

SECTION 5.—Local Rates.

[*See* Resolution on Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1913-14.]

188. The current demand rose from Rs. 7,83,451 to Rs. 7,91,291, the increase being shared by all districts except Kamrup. Collections showed a small decrease, from 89·67 per cent. to 89·55 per cent., and amounted to Rs. 7,08,668. The assessment of 21 separate accounts was completed in Sylhet and resulted in a nett increase of Rs. 482.

Inclusive of arrears the total demand rose to Rs. 8,73,175. Of this sum, Rs. 7,90,023, or 90·47 per cent., were collected, Rs. 14 were remitted and Rs. 83,138 were left outstanding.

SECTION 6.—Educational Cesses.

Nil.

SECTION 7.—Municipal Revenues.

198. The subject of Municipal income and expenditure is discussed in section 8, Chapter III of this Report.

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

SECTION 1.—Vital Statistics.

General.

190. Provincial statistics in this report are based on a population of 6,051,507 in the plains districts. The birth-rate during the year rose to 33·06 per mille, but the death-rate also exceeded the average and rose to 27·66 per mille, with the result that the natural increase in the population fell from 7·12 in 1912 to 5·4 per mille in 1913. The increase in the death-rate was most marked in the Surma Valley, where floods in July led to a considerable rise in the prices of food-grains.

In tea estates the birth-rate fell from 27·22 per mille in 1912 to 26·66 per mille and the death-rate rose from 23·64 in 1912 to 25·47 in 1913. Only in the districts of Sylhet and Sibsagar did the number of births exceed the number of deaths on gardens.

The ratio of mortality from the chief diseases was fever 14·43, cholera 2·71, dysentery and diarrhœa 2·62, thus corresponding closely with the ratio for the previous decennium. Goalpara and Darrang again reported the highest mortality from fever.

The registration of vital statistics, both in urban and rural areas, was found to be faulty and proposals for improving the accuracy of the returns are being considered.

Vital statistics recorded in hill districts are given in the following table:—

Districts.	Birth-rate.		Death-rate.	
	1912.	1913.	1912.	1913.
1	2	3	4	5
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	28·21	29·26	24·19	18·40
Naga Hills	32·19	21·87	18·98	25·58
Lushai Hills	37·58	35·98	32·03	28·81
Garo Hills	29·35	30·98	24·78	25·93

SECTION 2.—Immigration and labour inspection.

[*See* Resolution on Immigrant Labour in Assam for the year 1913-14.]

Legislation.

191. In view of the decision of the Government of India to withdraw the labour districts provisions of Act VI of 1901 from the four upper districts of the Assam Valley with effect from the 1st July 1914, a Bill to prevent the enticement of labour was drafted in consultation with the tea industry. The Secretary of State, however, found himself unable to accept the principles of the Bill and the orders of the Government of India as to the date from which these provisions of Act VI will now be withdrawn have not yet been received.

Immigration.

The procedure suggested by this Administration for the more efficient execution in the State of Hill Tippera of warrants issued by British courts, under Act XIII of 1859, failed to gain the support of the Government of Bengal and so no change could be effected.

192. During the year the railway route *vid* Amingaon was prescribed as a route by which immigrant coolies to Assam might travel and the supervision of the sanitary arrangements for them from Saraghat to Amingaon was entrusted to the sanitary officers of this province.

Though slightly lower than in the previous year the number of immigrants reached the high figure of 58,869, of whom 3,776 had contracts under Act VI of 1901. They came mainly from the plains districts of the United Provinces and Bengal and from the Central Provinces, where bad harvests favoured recruiting, but there was a marked fall in the number of recruits from Madras. The health of the coolies in transit was good and only 32 deaths occurred, mainly from cholera.

Immigrate population.

193. At the close of the year the total labour force had risen from 831,735 in 1912-13 to 846,569, of whom only 1·9 per cent. of the adults had contracts under Act VI of 1901. The birth-rate fell from 27·6 to 25·5 per mille of the total strength and from 93·5 to 86·6 per mille of the adult population. The death-rate on the other hand remained stationary at 24·7 per mille for the total labour force, but for adults alone it was 28·2 and for coolies with contracts under Act VI it was 57·8 per mille. Of the total number of deaths, 43·36 per cent. were due to dysentery, diarrhœa and ankylostomiasis, and 15·32 per cent. to respiratory diseases. The Deputy Sanitary Commissioner held an enquiry in the cold weather into the prevalence of dysentery and diarrhœa on tea estates and the means whereby the sanitary department could be brought into closer touch with the tea industry. His report is now being considered by the Chief Commissioner.

The number of complaints of fraudulent recruitment fell from 120 to 101, of which 46 cases were found to be true. Contracts under Act VI of 1901 were reported to have been made with 46 coolies recruited for the Sylhet district. As the provisions of Act VI, under which contracts are executed, have been withdrawn from this district, enquiries are being made, and, if necessary, the Local Government concerned will be addressed in the matter. Eight complaints of ill-treatment were brought by coolies against their employers during the year, but were found to be true in only two cases. Managers brought charges of rioting or unlawful assembly in 11 cases and of assault in 5 cases against coolies. In these cases 59 persons were sentenced to imprisonment and 1 to a fine.

Act XIII of 1859 continued to be used largely both for new coolies and for those whose contracts under Act VI had expired. The Act is reported to have worked well, but a tendency was observed in Cachar to stretch it beyond its proper scope and, on a nominal advance of money, to bind down new coolies to serve for three years. Steps have already been taken to discourage this practice. On the whole planters realise that their own interests, as well as those of humanity, are best served by treating their coolies well and preserving friendly relations with their neighbouring villagers, and departures from this sound policy occur but seldom.

The area of Government land settled with time-expired coolies rose from 196,234 to 197,137 acres, and in Lakhimpur 6,557 acres were settled with planters on special terms to enable them to provide their coolies with plots for cultivation. In order to obtain a more accurate idea of the large areas of land held by time-expired coolies, steps have also been taken to collect approximate figures of the area of land held by them as sub-tenants.

SECTION 3.—Charitable Dispensaries.

[*See* Dispensary Returns of the Province of Assam, 1913.]

Dispensaries.

194. The number of hospitals and dispensaries in the province rose from 210 in 1912 to 225 in 1913. Of these, 123 were supported by local bodies and the rest by private persons or by the State.

The number of patients treated rose to 1,595,380.

The income at the disposal of State-public, local fund and private-aided dispensaries was Rs. 5,20,303, of which Rs. 1,88,682 were contributed by Government. Insanitary conditions prevail in many dispensaries supported by local bodies, and, for the present, attention should be directed rather to the improvement of existing dispensaries than to any increase in their number.

Owing to the high cost of living and lack of private practice, service in Assam is unpopular and it was not found possible to fill the cadre of Sub-Assistant Surgeons. A revised scale of pay was introduced during the year in the hope of attracting more applicants. The leave reserve was also found to be inadequate and proposals have been made to raise it from 20 to 25 per cent. of the sanctioned strength. A scheme for 28 travelling dispensaries within the province was sanctioned, but, owing to the difficulty in recruiting officers, only four of these could be started before the close of the year.

Local bodies found even greater difficulty in filling their appointments and a combined medical service sanctioned by the five Local Boards of Sylhet was 31 per cent. short of its strength at the close of the year.

195. In the Sylhet Leper Asylum 42 patients were under treatment during the year. Of these 6 died and 7 were discharged. Treatment by Nastin has not proved a success and the substitution for it of Leprolin and injections of refined chalmugra oil is being considered. Leper Asylum.

Temporary accommodation for 30 more patients was provided and the reconstruction of the Asylum at a cost of Rs. 44,920 was sanctioned.

SECTION 4.—Lunatic Asylums.

[*See* Statistical Returns of the Lunatic Asylum in Assam for the year 1913.]

196. During the year 74 patients were admitted, 14 were discharged, 2 were transferred to friends, 3 criminal and 1 non-criminal lunatics escaped and 23 died, leaving in the asylum at the close of the year 230 inmates, of whom 84 were criminal lunatics. Tea-garden coolies and cultivators formed the bulk of those admitted. Population.

The quality of the information supplied by the police was again bad, and in 65 and 57 cases, respectively, the predisposing and existing causes could not be ascertained. The majority of those admitted were suffering from mania (42) and melancholia (20), but there were 6 cases of insanity from the effects of *ganja* and in 11 cases the predisposing cause was reported to be epilepsy.

197. The number of admissions to hospital fell from 202 to 189, and the ratio of deaths per cent. of the daily average strength from 20·23 to 9·47, but the daily average number of sick rose from 24·76 to 39·06. The provision of ample air space and of three temporary segregation sheds checked the mortality from tubercular diseases. Health.

198. The cost of maintaining the asylum rose from Rs. 24,369-15-5, with an average cost per head of Rs. 104-14-10, in 1912 to a total of Rs. 37,562-14-11 with a cost per head of Rs. 154-11-9. The increase was due mainly to heavy charges for buildings, additions to the staff and a revised scale of pay. Cost of maintenance.

SECTION 5.—Sanitation.

[*See* Annual Sanitary Report of the Province of Assam for 1913.]

199. Three new Municipalities, at Karimganj, Sunamganj and Habiganj, and a new Union at Maulvi Bazar were constituted during the year in the Sylhet district. The total income of municipal institutions amounted to Rs. 6,66,390, of which Rs. 3,04,769 were spent on sanitation. Municipal bodies.

200. The construction of the water-works at Jorhat was nearly complete at the end of the year, and in Gauhati the supply of water for drinking purposes was increased and a beginning was made in checking waste by providing meters on pipes connected with private houses. In Nowgong and Sibsagar also minor schemes for improving the water-supply progressed during the year and a promising scheme for the construction of water-works was submitted from Dhubri. The financial proposals made by the Municipalities of Silchar, Sylhet and Tezpur in connection with their piped water-supply projects required careful revision. In the case of Silchar and Sylhet the projects have been sanctioned since the close of the year. The financial position of the Tezpur scheme is still under examination. Drainage schemes for Gauhati and Dibrugarh and a water-supply project for the latter town are also under preparation. Urban areas.

Conservancy arrangements in most towns of the province were reported to be bad and the Sanitary Commissioner lays stress on the necessity for largely increased expenditure in this direction.

201. The Sanitary Board gave Rs. 11,541 to 5 Local Boards of the Surma Valley and Rs. 28,459 to 9 Local Boards of the Assam Valley for the improvement of rural water-supply. As a result of a conference held in June 1913, the Local Administration also gave Rs. 10,000 to each of the 19 Boards of the province for a similar purpose and asked them to submit programmes for the systematic improvement during the next five years of their rural water-supply. The Gauhati and Barpeta Boards reached the fifth financial year of the programmes previously initiated by them in this connection and work was started on that undertaken by the Mangaldai Board. Rural areas.

Small grants were given again for sanitary purposes in selected villages and were spent mainly on constructing and improving village paths and to some extent on the improvement of drainage and water-supply.

202. The sale of quinine "treatments" showed a satisfactory increase of 2,172 parcels over the figures for 1912. In order to encourage still more the use of these treatments special itinerant vendors were appointed in the districts of Cachar, Sibsagar and Kamrup. Medical.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Medical.

The provincial *kala-azar* survey was continued and resulted in showing the existence of the disease in endemic form in the district of Nowgong, the Mangaldai and Gauhati subdivisions and the Dudnai thana of Goalpara. In a quiescent state it was found also in a few scattered villages in the subdivisions of Tezpur, Golaghat, Dhubri and Barpeta and in North Kamrup. Very satisfactory results have followed on the removal of families to new sites. Out of 40 infected families thus removed 3 years ago a recurrence of the disease in a person not obviously infected on the old site has occurred only in one case. Arrangements were made to provide travelling dispensaries for areas in which this disease is endemic and proposals for controlling migration from infected villages are being considered.

SECTION 6.—Vaccination.

[*See* Vaccination Return of the Province of Assam for the year 1913.]

203. The staff of paid and licensed vaccinators was raised during the year to 353 persons and the number of operations performed by them and by other agencies rose from 333,363 in 1912-13 to 336,649 in 1913-14. Successful operations increased much in the Garo Hills, Nowgong, Kamrup, Goalpara and Cachar, but there was a large decline in the Sylhet district, where also the percentage of cases inspected by the Civil Surgeon was small. Inspection by Civil Surgeons in some other districts was also inadequate.

The system of licensing private vaccinators in districts where paid vaccinators work was reported to work badly.

Vaccinators reported success in 98·47 per cent. of vaccinations and in 78·11 per cent. of revaccinations, but these figures are higher than those returned by the inspecting staff. Of the total number of vaccinations and revaccinations performed, 5·50 per cent. and 2·71 per cent., respectively, were verified by Civil Surgeons and 51·44 per cent. and 42·87 per cent., respectively, by the subordinate inspecting staff.

In towns in which compulsory vaccination is enforced, 78·2 per cent. of the available infants were vaccinated, but in several towns the percentage of infants vaccinated remained deplorably low and the attention of Civil Surgeons had to be called again to this matter.

The cost of the department, including that of the lymph prepared at the Shillong vaccine depôt, was Rs. 64,426-4-4, which gives an average cost of Re. 0-3-4 for each successful vaccination.

CHAPTER VII—INSTRUCTION.

SECTION 1.—General system of Public Instruction.

[General Administration Report for 1911-12, Part II, pages 121-123.]

SECTION 2.—Education.

[*See* General Report on Public Instruction in Assam for the year 1913-14, and Statistics of British India, Part VII.]

General. 204. The most noticeable feature of the year is the large increase in the number of schools and scholars. The total number of institutions, public and private, rose from 4,269 to 4,578 and that of pupils from 191,428 to 215,141. The percentage of male pupils to the male population of a school-going age was 35·08 against 32·04 in the preceding year and of female pupils 4·61 against 3·79.

The total expenditure increased from Rs. 19,03,954 in 1912-13 to Rs. 23,28,287 in the year under report. The increase was contributed both by the public funds and private sources. Out of the Imperial assignments for educational reforms in Assam Rs. 6,00,000 were allotted for expenditure during the year. This sum was almost fully spent.

Collegiate education. 205. On 31st March 1914 there were 442 students on the rolls of the Assam colleges as compared with 360 on the same day of 1913, an increase of 82. The affiliation of the colleges was extended, staffs strengthened, accommodation increased, hostels improved and developed, libraries and laboratories more fully equipped, and liberal schemes for further development were in preparation. The sanction of the Secretary of State to the raising of the status of the Murarichand College to that of a first-grade college was received during the year and action proceeded for the acquisition of a site and the preparation of a building project.

Secondary education. 206. The number of high schools rose from 29 to 31, the new schools being the George Institution and North Lakhimpur High School. The enrolment rose from 10,337 to 11,597. Six aided high schools situated in subdivisional headquarters were provincialised during the year and negotiations for the provincialisation of a seventh were nearing completion at the close of the year. The demand for high schools is increasing. Improvements were made in the staffing of Government high schools and larger grants were offered to aided high schools with a view to bringing about similar improvements. A scheme was sanctioned providing for the development of Government high schools up to a two-section limit, *i.e.*, a maximum enrolment of 640 in each.

Four hundred and eighty-three candidates presented themselves at the Matriculation Examination, of whom 300 passed. The percentage of success is not so satisfactory as in the preceding year, about 62 per cent. having passed against 74 per cent. in 1912-13.

The increase in the demand for English education continued. Several new middle English schools sought and obtained recognition or grant-in-aid during the year, and preliminaries were entered upon for the conversion of one large middle English school to a high school. The Government middle English school at North Lakhimpur has been raised to the standard of a high school, and high school classes will be gradually opened. There were 113 middle English schools for boys at the close of the year with an attendance of 13,693, the corresponding figures for the preceding year being 102 and 12,693.

Vernacular education was made free in all its stages. Middle vernacular schools made a remarkable recovery from the decline into which they had threatened to fall. The number of schools rose from 36 to 47 and of pupils from 2,796 and 5,244, or by 88 per cent. The increase in the number of pupils was not confined to the lower classes, the numbers in the middle stage of instruction having risen from 636 to 864, or by about 36 per cent. This increase, coming as it does after a period when middle vernacular education was supposed to be in a dying condition, is very satisfactory. The advance is full of hope for the future of vernacular education, as boys who have passed through a complete vernacular course, followed by a period of training, are in urgent request as teachers.

Primary education. 207. Extensive schemes for the improvement and expansion of primary education were carried into effect: the pay of primary school teachers was raised all round; funds were given to local bodies for the expansion of primary education under their

Chap. VII. INSTRUCTION.

charge and for the improvement of school buildings and equipment. Primary schools for boys rose from 3,534 to 3,760 and their pupils from 148,278 to 161,730. Expenditure increased from Rs. 5,02,079 to Rs. 5,51,726.

Institutions for training of teachers.

208. Two training classes for female teachers were opened during the year, under Mission supervision, one in each valley. Both institutions received Government aid.

In regard to the training of male teachers the system remained unchanged. There were 3 normal and 6 elementary training schools. There were 421 pupils in these schools against 361 in the preceding year. The returns for trained teachers show an increase from 2,109 to 2,388.

Law class.

209. The law class at Gauhati had 14 students on roll against 13 in the previous year. The expenditure was Rs. 478 against Rs. 563 in 1913-14.

Medical School.

210. The number of students on 31st March 1914 in the Berry-White Medical School was 112 (exclusive of the students in the compounders' class) against 113 in the previous year. The number of hillmen increased from 13 to 17 and that of Muhammadans decreased from 20 to 17. Of the Hindu and Muhammadan students, 58 belonged to the Brahmaputra Valley. The total expenditure increased from Rs. 29,214 to Rs. 32,732. Of 28 students in the 4th-year class, 24 passed the final examination and obtained their diplomas.

Technical and Industrial schools.

211. Industrial and technical education in the province is confined to two State schools and a few workshops which take in apprentice artisans.

Proposals for the establishment of a middle English school at Tipkai under the auspices of the Dhubri Local Board were received and grants sanctioned. Building operations were in progress during the year.

Tols.

212. At the close of the year there were 63 *tols* with 1,175 pupils, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 61 and 1,249, respectively. The general condition of Sanskrit *tols* is unsatisfactory, but a scheme of improvement is under consideration.

Madrasas.

213. There were 34 madrasas with 2,659 pupils at the close of the year. The Government madrasa at Sylhet, which started as a junior madrasa with 54 pupils, had an enrolment of 110 on 31st March 1914. It follows the Bengal curriculum. A scheme for its development to the senior standard was sanctioned.

Female education.

214. The percentage of girls attending public schools of all classes advanced from 3·7 to 4·4. The total number of recognised schools for girls increased from 265 to 318 and that of the girls at school, inclusive of those in boys' schools, was 22,747 against 19,085 in the previous year. This advance is full of promise.

The increase was most marked in schools primarily intended for girls, but there was considerable advance also in the number of girls reading in boys' schools. Grants from the Imperial assignments were communicated to local bodies for the improvement and expansion of female education under their charge. Fifty primary schools of an improved type were established and the status of 4 girls' schools was raised to the middle standard. The Khasi and Jaintia Hills, which had 22·3 per cent. of girls of school-going age at school, is the most advanced and the Naga Hills the most backward district in the province.

European education.

215. The number of schools for European and Anglo-Indian children remained the same as in the preceding year, *viz.*, two, one a Government school and the other a convent school aided with a Government grant, both located in Shillong and primarily intended for girls but taking in little boys also up to the age of 10 years. The total enrolment has advanced from 59 to 104. The boarding accommodation afforded in the Government school has been fully taken up, the teaching staff strengthened and the school building has undergone a great many alterations and improvements. The convent school has been officially recognised as a secondary school. Its buildings have been extended and improved and the curriculum considerably extended. Both the schools did well in the music examinations of the Trinity College. Negotiations for the establishment of two new schools for boys, one at Haflong and the other in Shillong, were nearing completion.

Muhammadan education.

216. The subjoined statement gives the comparative statistics of Muhammadan pupils in the various classes of recognised schools for the past 2 years:—

	1912-13.	1913-14.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
High schools	1,922	2,046	+ 6·4
Middle English schools	2,729	2,897	+ 6·2
Middle vernacular schools	471	895	+90·0
Primary schools	35,619	38,621	+ 8·4

The number of Muhammadan students at college in Assam rose from 39 to 57. The percentage of increase in the middle vernacular schools is significant.

Backward classes.

217. There was no change in the arrangements for the education of hill tribes in the province. There has been much advance both in the number of schools and pupils. The Khasi and Jaintia Hills, with 32·9 per cent. of the children of school-going age at school, occupies the first place in the province in point of school attendance. The Namasudra community in the plains districts of the Surma Valley has awakened to the advantages of education. Grants were given by the Education Department to several schools attended entirely or largely by Namasudras.

Children of tea-garden coolies.

218. The education of the children of tea-garden labourers did not make satisfactory progress. There were 118 schools in the province, of which 86 belonged to the "C" class.

Discipline.

219. There was no striking instance of bad discipline either in colleges or schools.

SECTION 3.—Literature and the Press.

[*See* Statistics of British India, Part VII, Educational.]

220. The total number of publications registered during the year under Act XXV of 1867, as amended by Act X of 1890, was 49, against 44 in the preceding year. Of these 12 were educational and 37 non-educational works; forty-five were first editions and 4 were republications. Of these books 24 were in Bengali, 4 were in Assamese, 3 were in English, 3 were in Nagri, 3 were in Sanskrit, 3 were in Khasi, 2 were in English-Assamese, 3 were in Sanskrit-Bengali, one was in Lushai, one was in English-Bengali, one was in Sanskrit-Assamese, and one was in Musalmani Bengali. The publications registered during the year are classified below according to the subjects dealt with :—

Astrology	1
Dictionary	1
General School Books and Keys	4
Mathematics	1
Miscellaneous	12
Fiction	1
Periodicals	11
Poetry	4
Science	1
Religion	13
Total	49

No book was received under any of the heads Biography, Drama, Geography, History, Law, Medicine, Mythology and Philosophy.

The *Assam Bilasini*, a weekly newspaper printed in Assamese, was started at Jorhat in September 1913. Besides this, one English, one Anglo-Bengali, one Assamese and one Bengali newspaper were published weekly and fourteen periodicals appeared monthly during the year. The tone of the Press continued to be unobjectionable.

SECTION 4.—Scientific and Literary Societies.

Nil.

SECTION 5.—Arts and Sciences.

Nil.

CHAPTER VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

221. During the year under report the Public Works Department maintained the monuments that have been declared as protected under Act VII of 1904. The most interesting of these are the famous rock inscriptions at the foot of the Kamakhya Hill in Kamrup, the dargah of Shah Jalal, who invaded Sylhet in 1257 A.D., the copper temple of the Deori Chutiyas near Sadiya, where human sacrifices used to be offered yearly, and the Ahom ruins in Sibsagar. Special repairs were made at Hayagrib Madhab's temple at Hajo in Kamrup and to the Bishnudole, Shibdole, Durgadole and Debidole temples at Gaurisagar and Sibsagar. The Shibdole temple at Negriting, in the Sibsagar district, was declared a protected monument and here also special repairs were executed.

Action, moreover, was taken with regard to two inscribed stones at Maibong and some ruins at Khaspur. These are of special interest in that they mark the gradual decline of the Kachari kingdom. The capital of this kingdom was originally at Dimapur in the Naga Hills, and the ruins of this city are protected under the Act. The Kachari kings were driven from here by the Ahoms and Angami Nagas early in the 16th century and retired to Maibong in the North Cachar Hills. At this place a rock temple had been put previously on the list of protected monuments, and during 1913-14, the question of protecting two inscribed stones, recording the erection of a stone gateway by King Megha Narayan Deba of the Hachangsa dynasty in Saka 1498 (A.D. 1576), was taken up, final orders being passed after the close of the year. Sometime between 1700 and 1750 A.D. the Kachari capital was transferred to Khaspur on the Madhura river in Cachar. Here, on land belonging to the Pathemara Tea Estate, were found ruins of temples built between 1780 and 1824 in the time of Rajas Krishna Chandra and Govinda Narayan, of whom the latter fled in 1825 to Haritikar in Sylhet and took refuge with the East India Company against the aggressions of the Manipuris and Burmese. These ruins, consisting mainly of a temple to Ranachandi, the goddess of war, a *Singh Darwaza*, a *Snan Mandir* and a *Baradwari*, were declared as protected monuments during the year and negotiations were entered into with the Manager of the Pathemara Tea Estate with respect to the manner of their preservation.

CHAPTER IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION 1.—Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1911-1912, Part II, page 128.]

SECTION 2.—Ecclesitical.

222. The ecclesiastical establishment of the province, maintained wholly or in part by this Administration, consists of the chaplaincies of Shillong, Silchar, Darrang, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur. The chaplaincy of Darrang has been vacant since June 1912; the Chaplain of Silchar went on leave on the 18th March 1914 and the Chaplain of Sibsagar left in the middle of March 1914. These posts have not yet been filled. The Chaplain of Shillong visited quarterly the out-stations of Gauhati and Dhubri and inspected the cemeteries at Cherrapunji and Goalpara. He also visited Tezpur quarterly in the absence of a chaplain at Darrang and paid his annual visit to Kohima, Manipur, Tura and Aijal.

SECTION 3.—Stationery.

223. The value of stationery supplied to the province was Rs. 54,575, including Rs. 12,000 for articles supplied to the Secretariat Press. Expenditure amounted to Rs. 47,680. All departments, except those of the Public Works and Education, again contributed to the savings and a revision of the departmental allotments has therefore been suggested by the Controller.

SECTION 4.—Printing.

224. Cash receipts of the Secretariat Press rose by Rs. 564 to Rs. 3,289 and expenditure decreased from Rs. 1,25,083 to Rs. 1,13,682. The actual amount paid to workmen exceeded the value of their outturn by Rs. 2,578. This loss occurred almost entirely under the Press and Machine branch and was due to the frequent necessity for working overtime owing to work being received late in the evening for immediate printing.

SECTION 5.—Veterinary Department.

[*See* Report of the Civil Verternary Department, Assam, for 1913-1914.]

225. Rinderpest was much less prevalent during the year and the number of deaths from contagious diseases consequently fell from 45,542 in 1912-13 to 29,471 in 1913-14. Diseases.

In 236 outbreaks of disease 26,325 animals were inoculated, with the satisfactory result that only 382 of them died, whereas 4,954 animals had died in these outbreaks before inoculation.

Much of the debility noticeable among cattle in plains districts was found to be due to liver fluke disease, which is incurable.

226. During the year one assistant resigned his post, but 9 more were appointed, thus raising their number to 40. The cadre still remained short by 13 assistants of its sanctioned strength, and an attempt to secure suitable candidates, by increasing the number and value of stipends tenable at the Bengal Veterinary College, was not successful. It is hoped, however, to attract qualified men for service in this department by a substantial increase in the pay of assistants. Strength.

227. The popularity of veterinary treatment of animals in the mufassil showed further progress, an increase of 34·61 per cent. in the staff of itinerant assistants, which was raised from 26 to 35, being accompanied by an increase of 42·51 per cent. in the number of animals treated. Treatment of animals.

228. Thirteen stud-bulls were maintained in the province and an improvement on the local breed of sheep was effected. No further steps were taken to improve the breed of cattle, as the report of the special officer deputed by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam has not yet been published. Breeding operations.

229. Cattle poisoners were reported to be working in several parts of the province, but no prosecutions have yet been made. General.

SHILLONG: Printed and Published by H. H. KING, Superintendent, Assam Secretariat Printing Office,
(J & G.) No. 47—509—27-1-1915.

00132904

Digitized with financial assistance from

Government of Maharashtra

on 01 February, 2020

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF ASSAM, 1913-1914.

SHILLONG:

PRINTED AT THE ASSAM SECRETARIAT PRINTING OFFICE.

1915.

Price Rs. 3.] [*Price* 4*s.* 6*d.*